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INSETS.

THE Publisher of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is now booking orders for the insertion of booklets, circulars, and price-lists in the Winter Issue as insets. The Issue falls on January 30, 1909. The Winter Issue affords the alert business man, who wishes to appeal to the drug and chemical trades, his great advertising opportunity. It is another of the series of world-famed Special Issues of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST with illuminated covers, artistic insets, and attractive advertisements. The advertisements are carefully followed by men in business in India, Australia, Canada, South Africa, West Indies, New Zealand, China, Japan, the United States, South America, Egypt, and on the European Continent as well as the United Kingdom. For full particulars write to the Publisher, THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Summary.

The subjoined paragraphs give the gist of the more important matters in this issue, with the object of showing at a glance what has happened during the week. See also "Contents" in the first column.

THE absorbing topic this week has been the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, which is now in the report stage.

We commence a verbatim report of the proceedings on the second reading on p. 904, which we comment upon on p. 896.

The result of the deputation of Irishmen to Mr. Samuel is given on p. 900. We state the events that led up to this on p. 897.

What took place before the Standing Committee on Thursday is given in full, beginning on p. 900.

Grocers are trying to get a modification of the Bill in regard to selling proprietary medicines containing poisons. We report briefly two meetings of grocers where this matter was considered (pp. 883 and 884).

The agriculturists, as represented by the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture, require that all poisons used for agricultural and horticultural purpose may be sold by licensed persons (p. 888).

MR. J. C. UMNEY is the new President of the Drug Club (p. 892).

SOME USEFUL NOTES on the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are given on p. 882.

The long-drawn out syphon account case at the Clerkenwell County Court is still before Judge Edge (p. 891).

SEVERAL MORE LETTERS from chemists who passed the Minor Examination while under age are given on p. 917.

THE QUESTIONS set in Section III. of the recent examination of the British Optical Association are printed on p. 915.

THE average unit paid at the Amsterdam cinchona auctions on Thursday was 3.13c., against 3.32c. at the previous auction.

STIFFENING LARD with paraffin-wax is the latest dodge. It has been exposed in a Sale of Food and Drugs Act case (p. 890).

A WOMAN at the Bow County Court has had 15*l.* awarded her against an oilman who supplied her with insect-powder in place of liquorice-powder (p. 891).

WE GIVE A PORTRAIT of the late Mr. William Blain, of Bolton, on p. 889. On the same page further particulars are given of the late Mr. G. K. Gossop.

WE REPORT FOUR CASES where tooth-extractors have been fined under the Dentists Act for holding themselves out to be "specially qualified" (p. 890).

PARTICULARS regarding a new direct-colour photographic process are given on p. 915. This differs from the autochrome method in having a separate colour screen.

A REPRODUCTION of a bogus order is given on p. 884 which should be studied by those in charge of the town order-departments of London wholesale druggists (p. 884).

"XRAYSER'S" observations this week refer to the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, Morehouse's Comet, and the practice of medicine and surgery by unqualified persons (p. 895).

MR. ALFRED HIGGS, Kingston-on-Thames, is willing to assist in the formation of a society of registered dentists to adjudicate on the advertisements issued by its members (p. 917).

THE AUTHORITIES of Dublin Technical Schools are still trying to get their botany and materia medica classes recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (pp. 885 and 916).

THE DUBLIN CASTLE AUTHORITIES do not approve of the regulations regarding the marks at the Licence Examination which the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland submitted (p. 916).

IN THE OPTICAL OBSERVATIONS on p. 914 hints are given on the use of centring-lenses and frame fitting, and there are two interesting cases mentioned about which other chemist-opticians may have remarks to make.

AT THE EVENING MEETING of the Pharmaceutical Society on Tuesday evening the principal paper was by Mr. R. E. Griffiths and Professor Greenish on the microscopical identification of green extracts. We give the process which the authors adopt on p. 887.

THE feature of the markets is the higher range of prices for a few leading articles. These include opium, ipecacuanha, jalap, acetic acid, vanilla, copaiba, Spanish aniseed, and glycerin. Bromides are very firm, and iodides and cocaine have a firmer tendency. Cassia oil, shellac, and ammonia sulphate are lower (p. 910).

English News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

Mr. J. Churchyard, Norwich and Yarmouth, was declared to be the successful tenderer at the sale of the stock and fixtures of Mr. A. Howard, chemist, 11 Hall Quay, Yarmouth, last week.

Henry Chadwick, a Burnley dispenser, was charged before the local Justices with being in arrears to the extent of 287l. 11s. under a wife-maintenance order. An arrangement was arrived at between the parties, and he was discharged.

Before the Daresbury Magistrates on December 6, Mr. James Vaughan Moore, of Stockton Heath, was summoned for using the premises, 66 London Road, Stockton Heath, a chemist's shop of which he was manager, for the purposes of betting. He was fined 10l., including costs.

An application was made at the Faversham Borough Sessions on December 2 on behalf of the Timothy White Co., Ltd., for the transfer of a beer, wine, and spirit off-licence, held at 3 West Street, to their representative, Ernest Force. The applicants occupy part of the premises. The Bench "declined to transfer the licence to a chemist."

The Redruth Board of Guardians received a request from Dr. Gardiner at their last meeting that expensive drugs and medicines should be supplied by the Board through the local chemists, as it is a burden to stock them. The Clerk said it was a tax on a professional man, as he was not allowed to supply at a profit. The Guardians took no action in the matter.

At the Clerkenwell Sessions on December 9, no evidence was offered in support of a charge preferred against Barnett and Louis Applestone of having conspired to obtain goods in connection with a tobacconist's and fancy-goods shop at Highgate Hill (C. & D., November 28, p. 812). The accused were therefore acquitted, counsel remarking that at the time the goods were ordered the Applestones believed the business would be a success.

The presidency of the Imperial International Exhibition, which is to be held next year at Shepherd's Bush, London, W., has been accepted by Lord Strathcona. The vice-presidents are Lord Derby, Lord Jersey, Lord Selby, Lord Avebury, Lord Elyth, Lord Desborough, Lord Welby, Lord Weardale, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, Sir Francis Mowatt, the Lord Mayor, Sir William Holland, Sir William White, Sir John Cockburn, and Sir William Mather. The date of the opening of the exhibition is fixed for May 1.

Hoping to be able to get rid of the nuisance of a dog barking at night, J. J. Mansfield, Goodmayes, Ilford, went to a chemist and bought some rat-poison, put it on some meat, and then deposited it in the road where he thought the dog would come. A dog ate the meat and died of strychnine-poisoning, and its owner was at Stratford Petty Sessions, on December 5, awarded 2l., while Mr. Mansfield was fined 10l., and 5l. 5s. special costs, in addition to the Court fees.

Commercial Travellers' Samples.

The Board of Trade are informed that the Commissioners of H.M. Customs have issued instructions to their officers to accord to commercial travellers from British South Africa the same facilities as regards the Customs clearance as are accorded to commercial travellers from the United States of America, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Germany, and Italy in virtue of the special agreements which have been concluded with those countries.

Sale of Licences.

The following notice has been issued by the Postmaster-General: "On and from January 1, 1909, local taxation licences will no longer be obtainable from the local Inland Revenue officers. The following licences will be sold at all money-order offices in England and Wales: Carriage (15s.), dog, gun, male servant. The following at all money-order offices at which there is a demand for them: Armorial bearings, carriage (all) and motor, game, game-dealer, game-keeper. The following at head offices only: Establishment licences in schedule form, licence to keep hounds, hackney

carriage and hackney motor licences. Private brewers' licences will continue to be sold at all money-order offices at which there is a demand for them."

Royal Institution.

The following are some of the lecture arrangements at the Royal Institution before Easter: Professor W. Stirling, a Christmas course of six experimentally illustrated lectures on "The Wheel of Life," adapted to a juvenile auditory; Professor Karl Pearson, two lectures on "Albinism in Man"; Dr. F. Walker Mott, six lectures on the "Evolution of the Brain as an Organ of Mind"; Professor J. O. Arnold, two lectures on "Mysteries of Metals"; Mr. A. D. Hall, two lectures on "Recent Advances in Agricultural Science"; and Professor Sir J. J. Thomson, six lectures on "Properties of Matter." The Friday evening meetings will commence on January 22, when Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace will deliver a discourse on "The World of Life: as Visualised and Interpreted by Darwinism." At a general monthly meeting of the members, held on December 7, Sir James Crichton-Browne, M.D., F.R.S., treasurer and vice-president, in the chair, the special thanks of the members were returned to Dr. Ludwig Mond for a donation to the fund for the promotion of experimental research at low temperatures.

Society of British Dentists.

Mr. W. H. Pinchbeck, Secretary *pro tem.*, has sent out a circular on behalf of Mr. J. T. Hoare and the Provisional Committee, which states:

The meeting convened for October 24 at the Holborn Restaurant was duly held, when the above Society was inaugurated and the rules and constitution adopted, after which the meeting was adjourned. At a meeting of the Provisional Committee since held it was resolved to hold a further meeting of those favourable to the Society for the purpose of electing an executive committee.

The subscription is to be not less than 10s. 6d. per annum (a number of subscriptions have already been received), and the committee are now prepared to accept further subscriptions pending the calling of the meeting. The Provisional Committee have already obtained three convictions under the Dental Act.

The meeting will be held at 34 Spence Street, Goswell Road, Clerkenwell, E.C., on December 11, at 7.30 p.m.

The Typhoid Bacillus.

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Water Board last week, the Water-Examination Committee reported that they had received the second report of the Director of Water Examinations on research work. Dr. Houston had in his experiments dealt with 29,400 c.c. of raw river-water, containing in the aggregate nearly 136 millions of bacteria, and had carefully studied 7,329 selected microbes (which might possibly have been those of *B. typhosus*), none of them were found to be the typhoid bacillus. So uniform have been the negative results of Dr. Houston's investigations that they seem to show that the typhoid bacillus cannot be uniformly present in the raw waters, unless in sparse number, as otherwise its isolation during so protracted and thorough an investigation would almost certainly have taken place.

Forensic Chemistry.

Mr. William Jago, F.I.C., delivered the fourth and last lecture of this series at University College on December 4, dealing with analysts' certificates and the examination of chemical witnesses. He gave an outline of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts of 1875 and 1889, indicating the data required on the analyst's certificate. He referred to the ruling of Mr. Justice Kennedy that the certificate must give data which enable the person charged to understand the same, and on which magistrates may give a decision without the presence of the analyst. The figures should be as complete as possible, to enable the defendant to dispute the charge. An analyst's certificate is *prima-facie* evidence, but may not be conclusive. The analyst's presence may be demanded by the defendant if he chooses to dispute the certificate. If a certificate is technically faulty it may be returned to the analyst and rectified before the trial. Reference to Somerset House must be made by the Magistrates if requested, and may be made if they think it necessary. Somerset House certificates are not always conclusive, but if adverse to the prosecution, the case usually fails. Care should be taken by the analyst to preserve the remainder

of samples for future reference. Appeals, if made on a question of fact, are referred to the Quarter Sessions, but if on a question of law, are tried in the Divisional Courts. In all important cases chemical evidence should be reserved before the Magistrates. Counsel should be instructed at an early stage. In civil cases, such as technical or patent cases, the chemist and counsel should confer, and previous similar cases should be brought before the chemist. In the proof of a chemical witness his qualifications and experience should be stated, and his expert knowledge of the subject at issue. His limitations should also be clearly stated. He must base his evidence on his own knowledge, as book-evidence is generally inadmissible. Note-books and memoranda may, however, be put in as evidence. The lecturer concluded with references to special cases. This course of lectures was highly instructive to practising analysts, and, judging by the attendance and applause, was greatly appreciated.

Agricultural Notes.

The annual report of the Royal Agricultural Society of England states that the work at Woburn Experimental Station consisted of a continuation of the permanent wheat and barley and the rotation experiments, and the beginning of field trials in growing different varieties of lucerne. The use of calcium cyanide on corn and root-crops and the influence of inoculating methods for lucerne and white clover have also been the subjects of investigation. Further work has been done at the pot-culture station on the action of magnesia in soils and on the utilisation of sewage-sludges.

Mr. W. B. Bottomley, F.C.S., Professor of Botany at King's College, London, gave a lecture on "Plants and their Allies" in the rooms of the Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park, on December 4. He stated that the four non-leguminous plants had root-nodules which, although of different structure, appear to function in the same way as those of leguminous herbs. Young alders, included in the four, respond by increased growth consequent upon "soil-inoculation" in the same way as vetches. It is claimed that oats, onions, turnips, roses, peach-trees, and even ferns have shown remarkable increase in growth when inoculated with nitrogen-fixing bacteria, and that there is a strong indication that the practical benefits of "soil-inoculation" may not be confined to leguminous crops.

Pick-me-ups after Hours.

At the Marlborough Street Police Court on December 3, John Ernest Jewell, chemist and druggist, carrying on business as Heppell & Co., 169 Piccadilly, London, W., was summoned, before Mr. Mead, for knowingly permitting his premises to be the habitual resort of women of a certain class, and allowing them to remain longer than was necessary for the purpose of obtaining reasonable refreshment. Mr. Muskett said defendant was summoned under Section 14 of the Licensing Act, 1872, he being the holder of a justices' licence under the Wine and Beerhouse Act for the sale of liquor to be consumed off the premises, no power being given to sell for consumption on the premises. The name Heppell & Co. appeared over the shop, and up to the time licensed houses closed—midnight on Saturday and 12.30 other nights—the business appeared to be conducted in a most respectable way, and no exception could be taken to it. But after the public-houses were shut until about two o'clock each morning—except Sundays—the premises became the habitual resort of women in large numbers. Cabs would draw up, and women would sometimes drive away in them with men. There was nothing attractive about the shop, except that it was a large, well-lighted chemist's, where the ordinary articles of such a business could be purchased. Among the things sold were "pick-me-ups," a few of which men purchased for the women at 6d. or 1s. each. The language used by some of the women was extremely bad, and the scene, both in action and words, on the part of those persons, was one of disgraceful disorder. It was only fair to say, concluded counsel, that the defendant, Mr. Jewell, had never been seen at the shop during the time it had been under police observation, and it appeared to be under management. Mr. Muir, for defendant, said he did not desire that any further evidence should be called. Mr. Jewell carried on a genuine chemist's business at the shop in question and elsewhere, and until he saw him (Mr. Muir) was absolutely disinclined to believe that anything of the kind spoken of took place. He had faith in his manager and assistant, and from them he (Mr. Muir) had "proofs" in contradiction of

the evidence for the prosecution. One knew, however, from experience in that court and others that if certain places were open after the public-houses were shut, this class of women would congregate there, and in the present instance he was not in a position to refute the facts given. Two courses were open to Mr. Jewell—to plead guilty or to rely upon the argument that the provisions of the Licensing Act did not apply to such premises. Mr. Jewell would take such steps as to make a recurrence of such a state of things impossible. He (defendant) had absolutely no knowledge that anything of the kind went on. Mr. Mead thought that the section of the Act under which the summons was issued did apply in the present case, and imposed a penalty of 10*l.*, with 25*s.* costs.

Grocers and the Sale of Poisons.

At a meeting of the Portsmouth Grocers' Association, held at Southsea on December 8, the sale of proprietary medicines containing poisons by grocers was considered on receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Federation of Grocers' Association on the subject of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill now before the House. The letter stated that for some years the Federation had been endeavouring to get the law amended in connection with the sale of proprietary medicines so that anyone holding a licence for the sale of such should be able to sell any of them put up by any properly qualified chemist if the medicine were put up in a closed wrapper and the wrapper so stated. The Federation suggested that the Associations should support them by writing to the local members of Parliament seeking their support to an amendment of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill to this purpose. Amendment was suggested to Clause II. to the effect that, providing the preparation is sold in a closed wrapper bearing in legible characters the name of a pharmaceutical chemist, or a chemist and druggist registered under the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as the compounder of the preparation, it might be sold by any grocer licensed for the sale of patent medicines. After discussion the Secretary was directed to communicate with the borough members on the subject.

Birmingham Notes.

Messrs. Bellamy & Wakefield have a window-display of tastefully arranged perfumery.

The Worcestershire Bee-keepers' Association supply guarantee labels to each member to testify to the purity of his honey.

An example of "enfleurage" is on show in a Gooch Street shop, where the proprietor has a reputation for lard. Pans of this commodity are shown with embedded rosemary leaves, but the name of the herb is not disclosed nor whether added for flavouring or as a preservative.

According to the "Mail," which has been consulting the local medicos on the subject of colds and sore throats, a solution of common salt is described as an "excellent astringent" for the latter, while a more powerful remedy is made by "dissolving half a teaspoonful each of bicarbonate of soda, borax, common salt, and white sugar in a pint of water."

At Solihull on December 1, Robert Randall and Albert Turner were charged with administering poison to a weak-minded youth "with intent to annoy." The boy, named Walter James Crowther, was sent by his father to Randall's nursery on November 14. In his evidence Crowther stated that Randall asked him to drink from a tin can, which he did. The fluid burnt his throat, and he afterwards turned giddy and sick. The case was adjourned.

The scheme for the institution of a Central Provident Dispensary in the city (*C. & D.*, September 26, p. 505) has now taken practical shape, and will come into operation on January 1. Primarily intended to diminish the pressure upon the out-patients' departments of the hospitals, the dispensary is part of a much larger scheme for co-operation for the benefit of the labouring classes among the many agencies in the district distributing medical relief. The nominal subscription is one penny per week, paid monthly or annually in advance, for which the subscriber can engage any doctor on the staff. Should medicine be required, a prescription will be supplied for dispensing at one of the dispensary's seven branches, and minor surgical aid will also be available. If medicine is required urgently, the practitioner will supply

it at a charge of sixpence, while patients too ill to wait on the physician will be visited at their own homes, and the services of consultants will be provided at reduced fees. Medical men joining the dispensary staff will be required to give up private club-work, and it is hoped that the dispensary will supersede the clubs. The income will be allotted as follows: 70 per cent. for the medical staff salaries, 20 per cent. for drugs, etc., and 10 per cent. for managerial expenses. The constitution of the dispensary, in addition to an influential representation of the medical profession, will also include nominees of the members, the four general hospitals, the General Dispensary, the City of Birmingham Aid Society, and the Hospital Saturday Fund.

Bogus-order Warning.

The order of which the illustration is a reproduction was presented to Messrs. Robert Gibson & Sons, Ltd., lozenge-manufacturers, 4 New Zealand Avenue, London, E.C., this week. It bore the slip label of a Lambeth chemist, who,

*Gibson & Sons, Ltd.
New Zealand Avenue
Please supply
14 40 Bunsen
liquores
all ready for
- sub.
pills per cent
Shropshire
26/11/08*

when appealed to, stated that the order was not written by or for him or with his authority. The signature is apparently in the same writing as the order. Wholesale houses should warn those in charge of their town-order departments in case "Mayhew" is extending his operations.

Contracts.

Mr. H. C. H. Oliver, chemist and druggist, West Malling, for disinfectants to the Malling (Kent) Rural Council.

The Executors of the late Mr. E. Booth, Crewe, for druggists' sundries to the Crewe Isolation Hospital during the ensuing year.

Chatham Town Council.—Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd., for Jeyes' Fluid at 3s. 6d. per gal. and Jeyes' Powder at 9l. per ton; Lawes' Chemical Co., Ltd., for Lawes' Fluid at 2s. 3d. and 1s. 5d. per gal. and Lawes' Powder at 5l. 7s. 6d. per ton; Middleton Bros. for Izal Fluid at 3s. 6d. per gal. and Izal Powder at 9l. per ton; Sanitas Co., Ltd., for Sanitas Fluid at 3s. 6d. per gal.; Sanitas Powder at 10l. per ton, blocks for water-vans at 9s. per doz., and Carbolic cleaning-soap at 19s. 6d. per cwt.

London County Council.—For annual supplies of chemicals, etc., at estimated values: W. V. Aldridge & Son, 3l.; F. W. Berk & Co., Ltd., 19l.; Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., 86l.; J. J. Griffin & Sons, Ltd., 6l.; Harrington Bros., Ltd., 40l.; Hopkin & Williams, Ltd., 8l.; W. Martindale, 28l.; May & Baker, Ltd., 240l.; Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., 38l.; and Willows, Francis, Butler & Thompson, Ltd., 49l.—For disinfectants: Adcock, Easton & Co., 3l.; Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., 69l.; H. Edward Hope & Co., 85l.; McDougall Bros., 26l.; and A. C. Young & Co., 222l.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board on December 5 received sanction from the Local Government Board to enter into a contract for a period of twelve months with

the Society of Apothecaries for the supply of the drugs required at the managers' institutions without first inviting tenders. The Contract Committee report that as a result of the trials of waterproof sheetings obtained from selected manufacturers, a sheeting similar to that in use during the past six months would best serve the Board's purposes, at any rate for the near future. The committee are of opinion that in order to obtain satisfactory supplies it will be necessary to restrict tendering to selected manufacturers, and that a formal contract or contracts for the supply of waterproof sheeting be entered into for 1909 without inviting tenders. It was agreed to ask the assent of the Local Government Board to this procedure.

Welsh News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Pure Drugs.

The Glamorgan county analyst (Mr. C. A. Seyler) reports that all the samples examined during the past quarter were satisfactory. They included ginger, fruit-wine, tartaric acid, cream of tartar, milk of sulphur, flowers of sulphur, sodium bicarbonate, camphorated oil, olive oil, and tincture of rhubarb.

Grocers and the Poisons Legislation.

The Cardiff Grocers' Association considered the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill on December 8. Mr. A. J. Giles (Secretary to the Grocers' Federation) wrote suggesting that the Association should ask the local members of Parliament to support an amendment to the Bill which would empower anyone to sell all preparations containing any of the poisons in Part. II. of the Schedule without incurring any penalty or disability, provided that the preparation be sold in a closed wrapper bearing in legible characters the name of a pharmaceutical chemist, or of a chemist and druggist registered under the Act. This was a similar letter to the one considered by the Portsmouth Grocers (p. 883). A motion to this effect was carried unanimously.

Irish News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Applications for the January examinations should be received by the Registrar not later than 11 A.M. on the following dates: Preliminary examination, Thursday, December 24; Registered Druggist examination, Tuesday, December 29; Pharmaceutical Licence examination, Wednesday, December 30; Pharmaceutical Assistant examination, Monday, January 4.

Personal.

Mr. S. Templeton, Assoc.R.C.Sc., F.I.C., who was formerly head of the chemical department of the Belfast Municipal Technical Institute, has returned from London and has opened classes at 45 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, as teacher of scientific method and chemistry.

Post-office Prosecution.

The case of the man Mellinger, dealer in rubber goods, etc., who was charged with sending indecent and obscene articles through the post, from England to Dublin, came on for trial at the Dublin Commission on December 8 (see C. & D., October 31, p. 676). The accused pleaded guilty, and undertook (through his counsel) not to repeat the offence. Mr. Justice Wright said he would read the depositions and reserve sentence until next day.

Drug-supplies.

At the meeting of the joint committee of the county Cavan Infirmary, Dr. Acheson, house surgeon, requested, for convenience' sake, that the medicine contract be given to a local man. The existing contract is in the hands of a Dublin firm, and sometimes, he said, there is a long delay in obtaining the supplies ordered.—The Chairman said they should get the very best medicine regardless of price, and

empower the doctor to reject any inferior stuff supplied.—This was agreed to.—The tenders were then opened, and that of Mr. J. J. Cole, Cavan, for medicine and medical appliances at 30 per cent. off prescribed prices of the L.G.B. accepted.

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill.

A meeting of the Irish Cattle Traders' Association was held in Dublin on December 3. The following paragraph appeared in the report of the Committee of the Association:

Your Secretary gave evidence before the Joint Committee of the Lords and Commons as to the necessity of extending the Poisons Bill to Ireland, so as to facilitate farmers to obtain poisonous sheep-dips, and it is satisfactory to be able to report that the Joint Committee recommended the exclusion of Ireland. Your committee, having heard of an intention to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1891, by which great cost and inconvenience would be put on cattle breeders and feeders, the Secretary was directed to communicate with representatives in Parliament to secure its rejection. So far no attempt has been made to push the Bill through, and your committee is carefully watching any attempt to do so.

Dublin Technical Schools.

The distribution of prizes to the successful students in the classes of the Dublin Technical Schools took place on December 3, and the subject of the refusal of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to recognise the schools (see p. 916) was referred to in the report of the committee:

At the examination for the Licence of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland seven students of our chemistry class were successful, one of them obtaining first place. . . . The Pharmaceutical Society, which has for many years recognised for their Licence certificates of attendance at our chemistry classes, recently declined to extend their recognition to our new and successful classes in botany and materia medica, but we trust that a broader spirit may prevail, and that the desired recognition may be accorded in the near future. Indeed, we are hopeful that the true position of our Institute as a factor in educational development may be more widely accepted, and that, by affiliation with the new University, it may play an important part in the field of science and the application of scientific principles to industry.

Poisoning-charge Sequel.

At the last Ulster Assizes, held at Belfast, Catherine Buchanan was sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude for attempting to poison her husband with strychnine (see *C. & D.*, July 25, p. 113). Subsequently a farmer named Teese was charged with inciting the woman to poison her husband (see *C. & D.*, August 8, p. 221). Teese was tried on this charge at the Ulster Winter Assizes on December 2. Mrs. Buchanan was called as a witness, and said that Teese gave her a little bottle of clear glass containing poison and told her to put it in her husband's milk. Mr. Wm. T. Moore, chemist, Letterkenny, gave evidence as to having sold strychnine to the prisoner in October 1905. Mr. McGrath (counsel for the prisoner): I suggest to you that the packet here (producing a bottle) is the packet which you sold to Teese on that date?—Witness: All I can say is that it was put up by me, but the date it was sold I cannot tell. In reply to the Judge, witness said that forty or fifty similar packets were sold in the year. Dr. Walsh (counsel for the Crown) elicited the fact that witness's poison-book showed that prisoner paid a shilling for strychnine on June 20, 1901. Mrs. Elizabeth Teese, prisoner's mother, got a similar quantity on April 25, 1900, while prisoner's sister bought a bottle on July 11, 1903. In each case the entry in the book stated that the poison was for killing rats. Mr. McGrath: So far as this bottle is concerned, can you tell me whether it was purchased this year?—Witness: No; I could not. Mr. McGrath: Do you label these bottles with a red label?—Yes, now, but previously I used a white label with a black ground. Professor Robt. Barklie, public analyst, Belfast, gave analytical evidence. The jury disagreed in the case, and the prisoner was put back to the next Assizes.

Murder-charge.

The case of Elizabeth Doeherty, who was indicted for the murder of her husband at Ballymoney last June, was heard at the Ulster Winter Assizes this week (see *C. & D.*, August 8, p. 221). The woman was alleged to have put strychnine in deceased's food. The jury found her not guilty, and she was discharged.

Scotch News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Aberdeen and the North.

Cold and sickness are rife in the city, and the chemists are reaping the benefit.

Mr. James Clark, chemist and druggist, has been nominated for the Portsoy Town Council. Mr. Clark's election is not to be opposed.

In the Aberdeen Sheriff Court on December 2, a lad named William Sangster was charged with breaking into the shop of Mr. David Smith Ratray, Ph.C., 1 Deswood Place (*C. & D.*, December 5, p. 850). The accused, who had been previously convicted of theft, pleaded guilty. The Fiscal (Mr. MacLennan) said the accused belonged to a dangerous gang known as the "Village Boys." The prisoner was sent to prison for six months.

East Coast.

Mr. John Bardner, who presided at the annual soirée of the Dunfermline Co-operative Society's employes held last week, said that it was expected that at an early date a considerable addition would require to be made to the drug-department.

The new assessments in Arbroath under the Corporation's Water Order of 1904 have caused much comment in the town. Chemists, with other traders, lodged appeals with the Town Council, sitting as an Appeal Court, that the water assessments were not in accordance with the Order's provisions, but that double charges were made. The Court held that the chemists could be assessed under the Order at not more than one-half the annual rental, and as some of the premises were assessed at the full rental they sustained the appeals. They held that the Corporation could not make double charges, and also declared that no charge could be made for photographic dark-rooms, hose, etc., these being all covered by the assessment on the rental.

Edinburgh.

The exhibits at the meeting of the Botanical Society at 5 St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh, on December 10, include specimens of *Fucus inflatus* from Shetland and *Colpomenia sinuosa* from Dorset and Devon by Mr. E. M. Holmes; a fruit of *Martynia proboscidea* (so-called Devil's Horn or Mouse Burr) by Mr. W. Duncan; and roots of *Pisum sativum*, showing effects of inoculation with Nitrobacterine, by Mr. John Lothian.

In the Edinburgh Court of Session on December 5, a decree of divorce was granted to Barbara Mather, or McGlashan, Willesden Green, London, N.W., against her husband, Peter McGlashan, chemist, whose last address was Boksburg, Transvaal, South Africa. The parties were married at Blairgowrie in 1897, where defender had a business of his own. In October 1899 defender left home, but never returned. He had sent his wife about 10*l.* during the nine years that followed.

Mr. Peter Boa presided over a large gathering of members at the seventeenth annual smoking-concert of the Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club, held in the Imperial Hotel on December 8. The Chairman said the year had been a particularly eventful one in athletic matters, with the Olympic Games and the Pharmacy Sports at the Scottish National Exhibition—(laughter)—and several Marathon races. The Pharmacy Athletic Club had progressed since its inauguration, the membership of 170 being a record one for a club of its kind. The bowling team had been particularly successful this year, and next year they would compete in the inter-city matches, so that he did not think the success of the Glaswegians was likely to continue. During the evening the Chairman handed over the prizes won during the year to the winners. The billiard cup presented by Mr. W. A. Davies (Raines, Clark & Co., Ltd.), was won by Mr. R. Robertson, and the runner-up was Mr. J. P. Gibb. Messrs. Urquhart, Mauchlim, Grieve, Marshall, Nicol, Brown, Jones, Atherton, Cameron, Sanderson, Kemp, etc., contributed to an appreciated programme. The platform party included Dr. Coull (R. C. & Co.), Mr. Rutherford Hill, Ph.C., and Mr. W. L. Beaumont.

Glasgow and the West.

A revised edition of "The Glasgow and West of Scotland Formulary" has been issued.

Dr. P. McAdam lectured on "Thomas de Quincey, an English Opium-eater," at the Anderston Library on December 8.

The new manager of Messrs. Frazer & Green's, Ltd., Buchanan Street establishment is Mr. John L. Potter. The name was misspelled last week.

Mr. J. W. Harper, chemist and druggist (of Messrs. J. McMillan, Ltd., 17 Great Western Road), gave a lecture on "The Materia Medica of Common Substances" at the North Kelvinside Young Men's Guild on December 7.

A deputation from the Glasgow University Court to the Tramways Extension Sub-committee stated that the proposed running of cars along University Avenue would seriously interfere with work (especially research-work) in the University laboratories.

The chemistry lecture of the Glasgow University, held at Gilmore Hill on November 30, was terminated by Professor Ferguson, owing to disturbance by shuffling of feet and vocal interruptions. It is intimated that the class will not be resumed until the offending students apologise, and no class has been held since.

At the annual meeting of the Falkirk Burgh Merchants' Association held on December 7, a discussion took place regarding the order for the earlier closing of shops, which the Burgh has adopted. Complaint was made that although opticians and general-goods merchants could not sell spectacles and combs after 7.30 p.m., customers were being supplied later at chemists' shops. The attention of the inspector under the Shop-hours Act was directed to the case.

The Rev. James Forrest, chemist and druggist, read a paper at the Unitarian Church on December 2 dealing with the recent tour by his brother (Mr. George Forrest, F.R.G.S.) in the hitherto unexplored region of the Upper Salwin, in South-West China. The tour was undertaken for the purposes of defining certain geographical boundaries. The lecture illustrated various incidents, and also dealt with the flora and fauna of the country. Mr. John Lothian, Ph.C., manipulated the lantern.

The chemists' carboys are the subject of editorial consideration in the "Glasgow Evening News." The article says: "No section of the community manifests such a consistent devotion to old-established custom as the dispenser of drugs and potions." The short comment goes on to say that of the origin of the "large coloured globes which are so intimately identified with chemists' windows there is widespread ignorance," but that should not prevent admiration of "the chemists' veneration for a symbol deeply rooted in the long-vanished past."

Trade Notes.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C., are closing their offices and warehouses on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

MESSRS. BURCOYNE, BURIDGES & Co. ask us to state that there is no foundation for a rumour which has been circulated that they are about to associate or amalgamate with any other drug firm.

FARMER'S PHOSPHOR PASTE is used in the anti-rat campaign now being carried on. Messrs. F. Farmer & Co., 17 Poole Road, South Hackney, London, N.E., advertise in this issue their terms for this rat-poison.

MEMORY TRAINING.—The Pelman School of Memory, 55 Wenham House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C., in their advertisement offer to send to inquirers a pamphlet explaining their system of memory training.

ERASMIC WINDOW DISPLAYS.—The result of the window-display competitions organised by the Erasmic Co., Ltd., Warrington, is given in this issue. There are nearly a hundred awards, including prizes of 20*l.*, 15*l.*, 10*l.*, and 5*l.*

MR. VINCENT WOOD, Victoria House, Albion Place, Blackfriars Bridge, London, S.E., informs us that he has

just received intimation of an award of a Gold Medal for his display of all classes of elastic hosiery and materials at the Franco-British Exhibition.

JEYES' SANITARY COMPOUNDS Co., LTD., 64 Cannon Street, London, E.C., inform us that in addition to the gold medal which they received at the Franco-British Exhibition (*C. & D.*, October 17) they have been awarded a diploma of honour.

COD-LIVER OIL DISPLAYS.—Those chemists who desire to make window-displays of cod-liver oil or cod-liver oil emulsion may be glad to know that Messrs. James Townsend & Sons, Exeter, have prepared slips for window-bordering. These are printed in colours with rows of cod fish, and are quite attractive.

CREAM OF OLIVES.—Messrs. Hope & Co., 147 Bath Street, Glasgow, send us a bottle of an olive-oil emulsion which they prepare under the above title. It contains 60 per cent. of olive oil emulsified with egg, and is perfect in flavour. The cream of olives has a good local sale, but can be obtained in London from Messrs. F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., Charterhouse Square, London, E.C.

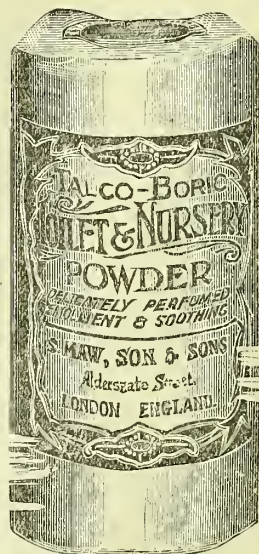
CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—Messrs. W. Butcher & Sons, Ltd., Camera House, Farringdon Avenue, London, E.C., are sending out window-slips for chemists' use suggesting that lanterns, enlargers, and cameras make useful and much-appreciated Christmas gifts. An illustrated booklet, entitled "Hobbies for the Boys," is also being supplied, and those chemists who wish to increase their sale of lantern-slides, working toys, and models should obtain a supply of these attractive booklets.

ARHOVIN AND PYRENOL.—Messrs. Reitmeyer & Co., 63 Crutched Friars, London, E.C., are at the present time sending out to medical men samples of arhovin and pyrenol. Arhovin, which is made in the Chemical Institute of Dr. Horowitz, of Berlin, is a gonorrhoea-remedy. It is taken internally in capsules (each containing 7½ grains) or used as an injection when dissolved in olive oil. Pyrenol, also one of Dr. Horowitz's medicinal inventions, is employed in diseases of the respiratory tract, in rheumatic and neuralgic affections, in infectious diseases, and in painful neurosis of the heart. The dose is from 7½ to 15 grains or up to 75 grains each day.

TALCO-BORIC TOILET-POWDER.

—Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons, Aldersgate Street, London, E.C., have recently introduced talco-boric toilet and nursery powder in dredger-top tins at 3*s.* 6*d.* per dozen. The powder is beautifully scented, and the style in which it is put up is a credit to the firm. The label is in red and gold on a pale yellow ground, the design being shown in the illustration. Customers can have their name and address on the labels when half-gross quantities are ordered.

SPRATTS' CALENDARS.—Spratts' Patent, Ltd., 24 and 25 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., have again issued their wall-calendar, which has hitherto been much appreciated by animal-lovers and sportsmen. This year the picture on each monthly sheet is in colours, and following precedent the portraits are reproductions of perfect animals or birds. Descriptions of the types figured are given on the back of the sheets. *C. & D.* readers may obtain a copy of the wall-calendar by at once sending a postcard to the company.



ALMADINA GUM.—The exports from the different ports of Angola during 1907 were valued at 1,624*l.*, as compared with 2,328*l.* in 1906. Much more could be done in this gum, says the British Consul in Angola. It grows practically anywhere in Angola with little or no cultivation.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

EVENING MEETING.

THE gathering of forty-two persons who attended the second evening meeting in the lecture-theatre at 17 Bloomsbury Square on December 8 included thirteen ladies. Among those present were Mr. J. F. Harrington (Vice-President of the Society) in the chair, Professor Greenish, and Messrs. C. T. Allen, R. R. Bennett, J. O. Braithwaite, E. T. Brewis, H. Finemore, W. Garsed, John Gibson (Hexham), H. W. Harvey, E. M. Holmes, W. H. Lenton, G. W. Lindsay, Donald MacKenzie, W. E. Miller, E. Saville Peck, F. Ransom, P. A. W. Self, F. Ransom, J. Smith, and W. J. U. Woolcock.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he was sorry there was not a larger audience, but they must flatter themselves that it was select. He then called upon Mr. Griffiths to read a contribution from the Pharmaceutical Research Laboratory by Mr. R. E. Griffiths and Professor Greenish on

THE MICROSCOPICAL IDENTIFICATION OF GREEN EXTRACTS.

MR. GRIFFITHS said the paper originated in the examination of a small quantity of green extract taken by some children under the impression that it was an extract of liquorice. By microscopical methods it was found to be a belladonna extract, and chemical treatment also showed the presence of alkaloid. The examination, however, suggested the extension of the microscopical identification by characteristic tissues to other extracts, such as stramonium and henbane, where chemical methods of distinction are not available. The series commented upon in the paper were: extracts of belladonna, henbane, foxglove, stramonium, hemlock, aconite, and lettuce, all, with the exception of the last, possessing toxic properties. The method of preparation of the extracts for microscopical examination consisted in concentration of the vegetable constituents and clearing of amorphous matter by the usual methods.

The extract (0.2 gram) was rubbed down in a mortar with 5 c.c. of water. The liquid was placed in a conical tube and centrifuged, the supernatant turbid liquid poured off, and the deposit washed with another quantity of water and again centrifuged. The deposit, which may be washed again if required, is then cleared by gentle heating with chloral-hydrate solution and collected and washed by the centrifugal method. Occasionally it is necessary to bleach the residues (as in henbane) with chlorinated-soda solution. Caustic potash for clearing and chromic acid as an oxidant were also used, but they were not entirely successful. The deposit is mounted and examined in dilute glycerin.

Characteristic elements are searched for under the microscope, but extraneous matters, although not generally important, sometimes shed light upon the nature of the extract. A lantern-demonstration showed the results obtained by the authors. The chief diagnostic features are given in the following short descriptions of the slides shown, and also conspicuous extraneous contents:

EXT. BELLADONNÆ.—Fragments of epidermis with sinuate epidermal cells and striated cuticle. Uniserial hairs with glandular heads. Sandy crystals of calcium oxalate. Stomata and four subsidiary cells. *Extraneous matter* included pitted tracheids of coniferous wood (from wooden stirrer?), sclerenchymatous cells, and a fragment of an insect (leg?).

EXT. HYOSCYAM.—Characters of epidermal cells. Glandular hairs with multicellular heads. Prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate. *Extraneous matter* included pollen-grain (pine), sand, and germinating fungal spores (?).

EXT. LACTUÆ.—Characters of epidermis. The fragments of the pappus, the pollen grains, and the top of a stigma were all highly characteristic. Laticiferous vessels.

EXT. DIGITALIS.—Roughened epidermis. Warty uniserial hairs, with heads frequently globular, or hairs short with two-celled glandular tops, but rarely with multicellular heads. The *extraneous matter* in one extract contained cuticle and crystals, which were certainly not from the digitalis-plant, but resembled those from belladonna.

EXT. ACONITI.—Epidermal fragments in very small pieces. Sclerenchymatous elements. Shriveled pollen grains. *Extraneous matter*, fructifying head of mould and a mite (acarina).

EXT. CONII.—Slide not shown, but the striated or papose epidermal fragments were stated to be characteristic.

The authors hold that green extracts can be identified, and also useful information obtained concerning their nature, by microscopical examination.

Professor GREENISH said the searching of the slides was tedious, and Mr. Griffiths had done the major part of the work. The character of extract-deposits opened up an interesting field, and they hoped to continue the work on these lines. In a mixture of belladonna and henbane extracts containing 20 per cent. of the former, the belladonna-extract was readily identified by the process, although it required a careful search. In dandelion and Indian hemp extracts, the presence of vegetable *débris* in the former and characteristic hairs in the latter showed that the percolation process did not entirely prevent them from passing through into the finished extract. Belladonna and henbane extracts were easiest to identify, followed by lettuce extract. Aconite was the most difficult, owing to fragmentary epidermis. Possibly this is due to the fact that in the tougher leaves of aconite the epidermis is not readily torn off.

DISCUSSION.

MR. RANSOM agreed that it was startling how vegetable tissues and extraneous matter got into the finished extract. He hoped that in the continued investigations extracts from first and second years' leaves respectively of both henbane and digitalis would be compared.

MR. SELF suggested that collection of the deposit on a hardened filter-paper would be useful.

MR. HOLMES pointed out that the paper opened a new line of toxicological research.

MR. DEANE wished to know the proportions of foreign matter in the extracts examined.

Professor GREENISH, in reply to questions, stated that the use of the centrifuge, if obtainable, was preferable to filtration. He agreed with Mr. Deane that it was impossible to collect and crush herbs without getting foreign matter. It could only be a guess at the proportion present, even if derived from comparison with the number of epidermal fragments found. The suspected portions of belladonna in one of the digitalis extracts may have been derived from the same knife being used for both extracts at some time.

MR. WILLIAMS expressed his indebtedness to Professor Greenish for his assistance.

The CHAIRMAN next called upon Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., a corresponding member of the Society, to illustrate

THE PREPARATION OF BARBADOS ALOES.

MR. FREEMAN explained that it was intended to give the demonstration at the last evening meeting, but it had to be held over owing to stress of time on that occasion. The lecture opened with an extract concerning aloes-production from Ligon's "History of Barbados" (1657).

Aloes we have growing here, very good and 'tis a beautiful plant; the leaves 4 inches broad, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick and about a foot and a half long; with prickles in each side and the last sprout which rises up in the middle bears yellow floweres one above another, and these floweres are higher than any of the leaves by 2 foot; these thick leaves we take and cut them through and out of them issue the Aloes which we set in the sun and that will rarifie it and make it fit to keep.

The process of to-day varies but little from the above. The first slide showed the short-stalked aloes-plant, the average height of which would be about 2 ft., but the flowering spike attains a height of 4 ft. The suckers used for propagation could also be seen. The next illustration was that of a field of the plants. In the foreground two inclined V-shaped troughs were filled with the transversely cut leaves, the yellow aloetic juice from the leaves, stood on end, drained into the troughs, and thence to suitable containers, in which it was conveyed to the boiler-house. The next slide showed an external view of the latter structure, which appeared to be a small stone erection, probably the last in the island. The juice is evaporated down in an open pan over a naked fire. The correct consistency is judged by the bubble-formation and the non-stickiness of the film on a spoon dipped into the evaporated juice. A gourd was shown into which the finished aloes is poured, and also the wooden troughs which were used in an experiment, tried by Mr. Freeman, of solar inspersion of

the aloetic juice. The result was not a success. The variation in appearance of the aloes placed on the market may account for the decrease of the industry in Barbados, where there is less than half an acre of the plants left. The value of the exports for periods of ten years from 1843 to 1902 was :

1843-52 ...	£33,059	1873-82 ...	£2,640
1853-62 ...	£12,185	1883-92 ...	£134
1863-72 ...	£13,568	1893-1902 ...	£35

Since 1902 the exports have been practically *nil*. The aloes-plant is extraordinarily hardy, being a typical dry-country plant, growing well on the sunny side of the island on the thin soil above the limestone substratum. A specimen of the plant forwarded to Kew was identified as *Aloe vera*. Mr. Freeman had not been able to see any difference between this plant and another species received from Curaçao named *Aloe chinensis*. The lecturer, in conclusion, thanked Mr. Holmes for the help and information he had given to him.

Mr. HOLMES said the paper was an example of what pharmacists may do when they go abroad. He had not yet been able to trace the source of Natal aloes. He would avail himself of an offer by Mr. Freeman to get a plant from Barbados which was sent from Curaçao under the name of *Aloe chinensis*. Some flowers he had received from Curaçao, preserved in glycerin, had been identified at Kew as those of *Aloe chinensis*.

Professor GREENISH said it was interesting to have an eye-witness to confirm that what is read in books is sometimes right. It was not unusual to find two aloes of quite different appearance in the same case, and this would possibly be accounted for by the fact that they were from separate boilings.

Mr. C. T. ALLEN asked if the sale of proprietary medicines containing aloes is as popular in Barbados as elsewhere or do they use aloes of their own preparation.

Mr. FREEMAN replied briefly. He said that, as far as he could judge, the patent remedies held their own in face of the local product, possibly since the latter had not the same attractive advertising.

Professor GREENISH exhibited specimens illustrating the work of Hungarian students in materia medica, and Mr. Holmes a student's herbarium. Both of the exhibits are from the Hungarian Exhibition and have been described previously (*C. & D.*, 1908, I., p. 732).

Votes of thanks closed the proceedings.

BENEVOLENT FUND ELECTION.

A MEETING for the purpose of electing three annuitants of the Benevolent Fund was held at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., on December 8. The scrutineers were under the chairmanship of Mr. W. F. Gulliver, and in the afternoon the result of their scrutiny of the voting-papers was announced as follows :

George Peacock ...	7,946
William Stratton ...	5,249
Edward Owen ...	4,615
Margaret Snowball ...	4,367
Emma Parrish ...	3,296

Mr. J. H. HARRINGTON (Vice-President) declared the first three to be duly elected annuitants of the Fund. Mr. W. F. Gulliver in his report stated that 7,415 voting-papers were issued and 4,491 returned. Of these 101 were informal, 64 being unsigned and 37 incorrectly filled up. A vote of thanks was accorded to the scrutineers.

Agricultural Poisons.

AT the meeting of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture held on December 9 at the Surveyors' Institute, Westminster, further discussion of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill took place. At the last meeting (*C. & D.*, November 7, p. 718) a resolution was submitted by Mr. Kendrick that :

This Council is of opinion that there is no necessity to enlarge the scope of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act by permitting other than qualified persons to sell poisons.

To this an amendment was submitted by Mr. Gardner (Worcester) :

That the Council strongly approve and support Clause 2, Section 1, of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, 1908.

Mr. Gardner having spoken in support of his amendment, it was agreed that further discussion be adjourned.

Mr. Middleton, at the meeting on Wednesday, seconded the amendment, but before proceeding to discuss it asked Mr. Kendrick to withdraw his resolution. To his mind, he said, it is incomprehensible that any member of such a body should have moved such a resolution. A very exhaustive inquiry had been held by a Select Committee, in the course of which very complete evidence was given by various members of agricultural societies in England and Ireland showing the necessity and urgent need of the measure being passed, at least in the interests of farmers and others in certain parts of the country. Now that sheep-dipping is compulsory, they as a Chamber of Agriculture should not make it more difficult to carry out such a necessary operation by adopting such a resolution as the one proposed. (Hear, hear.) He regarded it as bordering on an insult to the Government that when it had introduced legislation with a view to meeting the convenience of a large number of agriculturists in the country, they as a Chamber representing agriculture should turn round and say, "We do not need it."

Mr. Bathurst (Gloucester) said he should like to urge upon those who represented agricultural interests in Parliament to do all they can to get the scope of Clause 2 of the Bill extended. He reminded them that that clause authorised the County Councils to issue licences to certain persons living in country districts in respect to the sale of certain poisonous compounds, the poisons those compounds contained being specified as arsenic, tobacco, and the alkaloids of tobacco. These poisons are used for agricultural and horticultural purposes. But there are a considerable number of other poisons in common use in the manufacture of insecticides, fungicides, sheep-dips, foot-rot ointments, and other applications now in the hands of those whom the Bill is intended to benefit that are not mentioned at all in the clause. He hoped that when this clause is being considered by the Committee of the House of Commons those who there represented the interests of the farming community would try to have included in that clause all poisons that are in general use by agriculturists and horticulturists for the purposes of their business. He had been given to understand by an agricultural chemist that carbolic acid and its homologues, and various coal-tar products in common use for those purposes, are not included in Clause 2 as it stands, and that therefore those who used them will be unable to obtain them from those who are to be licensed under the Bill by the County Councils. Nor would it be possible for those so licensed to obtain such poisonous compounds. He suggested that County Councils, as reasoning bodies, are not going to license people to sell poisons to those who are not fit to receive them. If there is any real benefit to be derived by the agricultural community from the passing of the Bill, he submitted that it should be left to the County Council not only to license such persons as they thought fit to sell such poisons, but that these persons should be allowed to sell such poisons as are used on the farm or in the garden.

Mr. Landa agreed with Mr. Bathurst. "The only fear I had in my mind," he continued, "is that iron-mongers and other shopkeepers who sell groceries—general stores, I mean—may receive licences, and that they may not be proper persons to have them. But I think the discriminating power of the County Councils will be sufficient to safeguard the public in connection with the sale of such poisonous goods."

Mr. Courthope, M.P., remarked that on the previous day he handed in an amendment to meet the very point Mr. Bathurst had raised. He had not yet succeeded in getting himself put on the Standing Committee which was dealing with the Bill, but if he could not succeed in securing this before the Committee met the following morning, he assured them that someone else would propose widening the scope of Clause 2 when the Committee met. He would use the best of his ability to secure this, and if the proposal is not carried in Committee it will be proposed again in the House when the Bill reaches the report stage.

The amendment submitted by Mr. Gardner was then put and carried almost unanimously.

Births.

ELGAR.—At Durban, Natal, on November 12, the wife of H. Magness Elgar, Cape Town, of a son.

MCCARTHY.—At Bombay, on November 17, the wife of Harold H. McCarthy (Messrs. Treacher & Co., Ltd.), of a son.

MARTIN.—At Somerset West, Cape Colony, on November 15, the wife of T. S. Martin, chemist and druggist, of a son.

MILNE.—At 58 Broomhill Road, Aberdeen, on December 7, the wife of Frank Milne (Wm. Davidson, Ltd.), of a daughter.

Deaths.

ALEXANDER.—At 69 Don Street, Aberdeen, on December 1, Mr. John Alexander, chemist and druggist, 57 High Street, Old Aberdeen, aged forty-three years. Mr. Alexander passed the Minor in 1890, and had been in business on his own account since that time. He took a great interest in public affairs, and two years ago was a candidate for municipal honours, but was defeated by a small majority. His wife predeceased him two years ago, and he leaves two children. His father, who was the oldest inhabitant of Old Aberdeen, died about two months ago at the age of ninety-seven; his mother is still living.

BLAIN.—At 41 Melsonby Terrace, Bolton, on December 2, Mr. William Blain, pharmaceutical chemist, aged eighty-one. Mr. Blain was born in Deansgate, and was educated at the Bank Street day school by the Rev. Franklin Baker, a prominent townsman at that time. Mr. Blain was apprenticed with Mr. John Edmondson, Preston, his name being entered in 1844 as an apprentice. Owing to a paralytic seizure he went to Guernsey, and after his health had improved, became an assistant with Mr. Thomas Millais, of Guernsey. He returned to Bolton and started

business on his own account in Deansgate in 1851. He subsequently removed to Newport Street, and over fifty years ago to 25 Market Street, where the business has been carried on since. For fifteen years Mr. Blain served Bolton as a Town Councillor and Alderman; for seventeen years he was a Poor-law Guardian, and twice he occupied the position of Chairman. He also acted as an Overseer of the Poor, and in all capacities he worked faithfully and single-mindedly for the benefit of the borough. In the early 'sixties he was connected with the Parish Church and schools. He was a sidesman at the time of the demolition of the old Parish Church in 1865, and took part in the consecration of the new edifice in 1871. As a Freemason he was one of the oldest members of the craft in Bolton. He was initiated during his stay in Guernsey, and, going to Bolton, joined the local brethren. He was one of the founders of the Lodge of St. George's (No. 1723), and in 1900, on completing the jubilee of his connection with the craft, he was presented with a congratulatory address. He was also a member of the Royal Arch, Mark, and Knight Templar degrees. Mr. Blain, who was a widower, leaves two sons and two daughters. One of his sons—Mr. W. R. Blain—is a pharmaceutical chemist. The funeral took place at St. Peter's Church, Smithills, on December 5.

BRIGHT.—At Bath, on December 1, Mr. William Henry Bright, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-one.

DOBSON.—While crossing the English Channel on December 5, the Hon. Alfred Dobson, C.M.G., Agent-General for

Tasmania, was accidentally drowned. Mr. Dobson was born in 1848. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1875, and, returning to Tasmania, entered the House of Assembly in 1877, and became Attorney-General, Speaker, and Solicitor-General. He has been Agent-General for Tasmania since 1901. In THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for April 25 we published an interview and portrait of the Agent-General. The interview showed that Mr. Dobson was fully conversant with the requirements of Tasmania regarding the qualification of drug-sellers.

GOSSOP.—The late Mr. G. Kennington Gossop, whose death was announced in this column last week, was born at Huttoft, Lincolnshire, in 1837. He served his apprenticeship at Louth, and afterwards was an assistant in London at Lambeth and New North Road. He began business at Church Street, Grimsby, in 1867, and was registered on the passing of the Pharmacy Act, 1868. In 1886 Mr. Gossop left Grimsby and purchased the business of Mr. J. H. Large, 65 New North Road, London, where he had previously been an assistant. He remained here until his retirement in 1904, when he went to live at Finchley, N., last removing to Letchworth, Herts. His chief interests apart from his business were in church work. He was an ardent Wesleyan Methodist, and for many years until his death a trustee of Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London, E.C.

RANDALL.—At Longfleet, Poole, on November 26, Mr. Thomas Randall, chemist and druggist, aged eighty-four. Mr. Randall founded a business at Wareham in 1852, and was several times Mayor of that town. By the express wish of the deceased the remains were cremated at Woking.

TAYLOR.—At 167 Clarence Street, Bolton, on November 30, Mr. James Taylor, dispenser to Dr. T. W. Pattinson, Bolton, aged fifty-nine. Mr. Taylor was formerly in business as a chemist.

Business Changes.

Properly authenticated business notices (not being advertisements) are inserted in this section free of charge if promptly communicated to the Editor.

MR. EDWIN BALLARD, late of Gloucester, is now in business at High Street, Burford, Oxon.

MR. THOMAS G. DICKSON, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business of the late Mr. James Brown, Ph.C., at Amphthill.

MR. J. MCCORMACK, L.P.S.I., announces that he has taken over the business at the Medical Hall, 14 Selskar Street, Wexford.

MR. G. F. SPANTON, chemist and druggist, announces that he is giving up the business which he has carried on at 59 Queen Street, Ramsgate.

MR. F. GUTTRIDGE, chemist and optician, has purchased the business of Mr. R. L. Griffiths, chemist and druggist, at 27 London Road, Croydon.

MR. B. H. POWELL, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business of the West Birmingham Drug Co., Ltd., 395 Dudley Road, Birmingham.

MR. A. H. MOLSON, chemist and druggist, Spalding, has purchased the prescription and recipe books of the Talbot Herbal Remedies Co., Ltd., 6 New Road, Spalding.

MR. A. LEWIS THOMPSON, chemist and druggist, has opened a new pharmacy at 186 Snargate Street, Dover. Mr. Thompson leaves his old shop at 181 Snargate Street after Christmas, owing to expiry of lease.

MR. DAVID S. ANDERSON, chemist and druggist, of Fallowfield, Manchester, has bought the business at Hough Lane, Leyland, near Preston, formerly belonging to Mr. Thomas Jackson, chemist and druggist, who is retiring.

MR. ROBERT JOHN SAVAGE, pharmaceutical chemist, of Messrs. Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson, Ltd., Grafton Street, Dublin, has acquired the Company's branch Medical Hall at Cabra, Phibsborough, and is carrying on business there on his own account.



Legal Reports.

High Court Case.

MEDICAL ACT PROSECUTIONS.

In the Dublin King's Bench Division on December 2, before the Lord Chief Baron, Mr. Justice Andrews, and Mr. Justice Boyd, the hearing of the King (Wm. Clarke) v. the Justices of Tyrone was taken. The case was the outcome of a prosecution last February of James McGuire, at Dunganon Petty Sessions for having practised as a medical man without being qualified and registered under the Medical Act. The Magistrates dismissed the case on the preliminary objection that prosecutions under the Medical Act, 1858, could not be brought by a common informer, the right to prosecute being vested solely in the General Medical Council. This was an application for a mandamus to compel the Magistrates to hear the case. The Court held that the Magistrates were wrong in dismissing the case, and sent it back for reconsideration and redetermination.

Merchandise-marks Act.

USING OTHER MAKERS' SYPHONS.

At the Thames Police Court on December 4, Abraham Waller, Beaumont Street, Mile End, London, E., was charged before Mr. Dickinson with selling three syphon bottles of soda-water to which the trade-mark of Messrs. Idris & Co.—N. Paul & Co.—was falsely applied. Mr. Webb, for the prosecution, said the water used by prosecutors was drawn from two artesian wells and contained peculiar properties, while it was found the contents of the syphons purchased from defendant approximated in composition the water of the district. Mr. Dickinson fined defendant 10*s.*, and 3*l.* 3*s.* costs.

Dentists Act.

"SPECIALLY QUALIFIED."

At Preston on December 2, J. F. Houghton, Chapel Street, Preston, was summoned for committing a breach of the Dentists Act. For the prosecution it was stated that on the window at defendant's premises were the words:

Houghton's teeth: Extraction guaranteed absolutely painless.

Houghton's teeth: High-class artificial teeth, fit guaranteed.

The Bench imposed a fine of 1*l.*, and 3*l.* 3*s.* costs.

At the Stratford Police Court on December 5, Henry Rupert Pratt, 102 High Road, Ilford, was summoned under the Dentists Act for holding himself out to be specially qualified to practise dentistry. The summons was issued on the information of Mr. George Read Matland, dentist, Finsbury Pavement, whose clerk, calling upon the defendant on November 4, received a card with the following wording:

H. R. Pratt attends his surgery daily, where he will be pleased to give his personal attention and free advice on all subjects appertaining to the treatment and preservation of the teeth. Mr. Pratt has received his full training at one of London's leading hospitals, and he will be pleased to undertake all cases requiring his professional attention.

On the wording of the card Mr. Matland took these proceedings. Mr. Horton, for the defence, said Mr. Pratt had passed practically the whole of the examinations qualifying for a medical practitioner, but not the Final. The Bench imposed a fine of 20*s.*, and 1*l.* 5*s.* costs.

L. W. GASSIN, of 183 High Road, Ilford, was summoned for a similar offence. Thomas Bridge, a clerk living at Islington, said that on November 4 he visited defendant's premises, and in reply to inquiries received a leaflet as follows:

L. W. Gassin. D.E.D. Paris. L.D.S. Free consultation and advice; impossible to exist without good teeth. Children's irregular teeth can be corrected. Special attention given to nervous persons. Latest improvements and appliances. Extractions, 1*s.*, painless 2*s.* 6*d.*

Mr. Matland with the assent of the British Dental Association was again prosecutor, and for the defence Mr. Grimwood said he relied upon Section 4, which provided that if a person could show that he was not ordinarily resident

in the United Kingdom and that he held a qualification which entitled him to practise dentistry in a British possession or foreign country, and that he did not represent that he was registered under the Act, he was not liable to a penalty. The defendant held the diploma of Paris, which is recognised as the equivalent of the English diploma. The Bench imposed a fine of 20*s.*, and 25*s.* costs.

At Preston on December 4, R. P. Walmsley was prosecuted for holding himself out as specially qualified to practise dentistry. Mr. Ambler, who prosecuted, said defendant, who was not registered, used the words:

Medical specialist's surgery, perfect-fitting teeth and painless extraction; guaranteed specially qualified to practise dentistry

on the windows of his premises. A fine of 20*s.*, and costs, was imposed.

Weights and Measures Act.

At Leicester on December 5, Henry S. Smith, chemist and druggist, Harborough, was summoned for having in his possession for use in trade an unstamped weighing-instrument and thirteen weights, which were also unstamped. Defendant said the scales were not used for trade purposes, but simply in making up photographic solutions for his private use. He was ordered to pay 14*s.* costs.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

SWEET NITRE.

At Market Weighton on December 3, George Smart, Holmeon-Spalding Moor, was summoned for selling sweet spirit of nitre 35 per cent. deficient in ethyl nitrite. A fine of 5*s.*, and 3*s.* costs, was imposed.

At Royston Petty Sessions on December 2, David Grant Gunnell, grocer, Basley, was fined 1*s.*, and 6*s.* 6*d.* costs, for selling sweet spirit of nitre certified to be 40 per cent. deficient in ethyl nitrite.

At the Otley Police Court on December 4, Arnold Myers, grocer, High Street, Yeadon, Yorks, was summoned for selling sweet spirit of nitre deficient in strength. The analyst's certificate stated that the sample contained only 14.3 per cent. of the amount of nitrous ether required by the British Pharmacopœia. Defendant was ordered to pay the costs only.

PARAFFIN WAX IN LARD.

At Preston on December 7, Richard Robinson, grocer, Inglewhite, was fined 40*s.*, and five guineas costs, for selling lard containing 2.3 per cent. of paraffin wax. The lard was obtained from a bucket bearing the words "Guaranteed strictly pure and free from adulteration," but defendant refused to fall back upon the guarantee.

LINIMENT OF AMMONIA.

At the Lambeth Police Court on December 3, before Mr. Cecil Chapman, Edwin Charles Stone, described as a chemist, Camberwell Road, London, S.E., was summoned for selling liniment of ammonia which contained 51.3 per cent. of almond oil and olive oil instead of 74 per cent. The defendant's assistant was called, and admitted that he committed an error by serving a stock liniment. Dr. Francis Stevens, medical officer of health for Camberwell, said liniment of the strength supplied would not have the counter-irritant effect of ordinary liniment of ammonia. Mr. Cecil Chapman ordered the defendant to pay a nominal penalty of 20*s.* and 17*s.* 6*d.* costs.

PEPSIN.

At the North London Police Court on December 4, before Mr. Bros. John Charles Meacher, chemist, 61 Stroud Green Road, Finsbury Park, London, N., was summoned, at the instance of the Islington Borough Council, for selling on October 9 a quantity of pepsin 40 per cent. deficient in strength. Mr. A. M. Bramall appeared in support of the summons, and Mr. C. H. Kirby for the defence. Mr. Bramall said that samples of pepsin were taken from six or eight chemists in Islington, all of which proved to be defective. The medical officer of health did not believe that the chemists had tampered with the pepsin, but thought that it was sent from America in a defective condition. It was suggested that a nominal fine would meet the case. Mr. Kirby said he was willing to plead guilty if the suggested course was adopted. Mr. Meacher had not done

anything to cause this pepsin to be in the condition in which the analyst found it. Mr. Bros imposed a fine of 1s., and 12s. 6d. costs.

County Court Cases.

RECOVERING MONEY.

At the Ilford County Court on December 7, Mr. J. Newton Wright, chemist and druggist, High Road, Ilford, sued Mr. Rayner, a mortgage broker, Ilford, for 20l. 15s., money lent. Judgment had been obtained, and his Honour declined to make any further order.

DILAPIDATIONS CLAIM.

MR. WILLIAM MORRIS, the managing director of Messrs. W. D. Morris, Ltd., who formerly carried on a chemist's business at 2A Leeland Road, Ealing, W., was the defendant in an action brought at the Brentford County Court on December 4 for the recovery of 4l. 5s. in respect to dilapidations at the premises in Leeland Road, the plaintiff being the landlord's agent, Mr. George Ravenshear.

For the defendant Mr. Wilfred Firth contended that some of the defects were due to the incapacity of the plaintiff's workmen, and others had arisen since he vacated the premises. As to a charge for repainting the interior, he said that the paint was continually wiped down and kept fairly clean, inasmuch as a high-class chemist's business, such as that which he conducted, could not be carried on otherwise. He contended that the premises had only been subjected to fair wear and tear.

His Honour said that he had come to the conclusion that the charges were reasonable, and that the defendant was liable under the terms of his agreement, which made no provision for fair wear and tear. Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiff.

A BRIGHTENING SHAMPOO.

At the Cardiff County Court on December 3, before Judge Owen, Mrs. Florence Emily Stuart, of Dinas Powis, sought to recover damages from Mr. Robert Lane, hairdresser, Duke Street, Cardiff, for the loss of her hair. The plaintiff, in her evidence, said that after sea-bathing she went to Mr. Lane to have her hair dressed. She was told a "brightening shampoo" would make her hair wonderfully glossy. Accordingly she went again, when something was poured on her head which smelt like ammonia, and burnt very badly. Her hair became very brittle, and turned from a dark colour to almost red. Dr. Roche said that on examining Mrs. Stuart's scalp he found several small blisters, and the skin was peeling off—a condition consistent with an alkali having been put on it. For the defence Miss Jessie Lane, assistant to the defendant, was called, and said that for a "brightener" she put into the wash 2 oz. of "peroxide" and a small quantity of ammonia. She had used a similar wash dozens of times, and had never had anyone complain. Dr. Prichard said he examined the plaintiff's head and found nothing to indicate any injury by an application. The previous medical evidence was consistent with dandruff. His Honour thought there had been negligence, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff for 41l. 8s. damages, with costs.

SOUTH AMERICAN BUSINESS.

IN the City of London Court on December 7 and 9, before Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., Messrs. Hope Pearse, Carvalho & Co., merchants, sued the Sunrise Proprietary Co., Ltd., South Wharf, Paddington, to recover 37l. 2s. 10d. The plaintiffs entered into a contract with the defendant company to send travellers to South America to push their scented soaps. The defendants agreed to pay plaintiffs 75l. a year for five years on condition that one or more travellers carried the defendants' samples with a view to opening up business in South America. The defendants had paid the plaintiffs for one year and a half and now declined to go on with the arrangement, on the ground that they had received no benefit from it.—Mr. Hope Pearse said his firm spent last year 1,700l. in sending travellers to South America, where they had twenty agencies. He had been obliged to alter the prices at which the defendants' goods were supplied.—Mr. Hertslet, for the defendants, said that the plaintiffs had not fulfilled their part of the agreement. The plaintiffs undertook to do the best they could to get orders for the defendants, and they had done nothing of the kind. Except an order for 10l. no real business had

come to them.—Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., said the plaintiffs were entitled to the amount of their claim, and if the defendants wanted to claim damages for the plaintiffs' breach of contract, as suggested, that must be done by way of counterclaim.

INSECT OR LIQUORICE POWDER?

At Bow County Court on December 9, Judge Smyly, K.C., gave a considered judgment in the case of Crawford v. Parslow, an action in which plaintiff, a married woman, living at Poplar, complained that on going to one of the defendant's oilshops in Chrisp Street, Poplar, for a pennyworth of liquorice powder she was served with insect powder instead. She took some of this in water, and the result was shock and gastric disturbance. For this she claimed damages (see *C. & D.*, December 5, p. 854).

His Honour said the case was a very singular one, and he had considerable trouble in connection with it, owing to the fact that a material witness, a little girl named Marney, had told a dramatic story as to the action of defendant's manager, which, on cross-examination, turned out not to be true. He had looked very carefully to see whether there had been any collusion between this witness and the plaintiff, but could not find any evidence of such collusion. What seemed to have happened was that a pennyworth of insect powder had been made up for some other customer and by mistake got among the liquorice powders, which were kept in packets. The powder consisted of sixty parts of pyrethrum and forty of unknown vegetable matter. It was not very injurious, but there is no doubt that when the woman found out what it was she suffered a great fright and gastric disturbance. Under all the circumstances he should award the plaintiff 15l. Judgment was entered accordingly with costs.

SYPHON ACCOUNTS.

ON December 4 at Clerkenwell County Court, application for judgment was made in the case in which Messrs. F. Geraut & Co., aerated-water manufacturers, Farringdon Road, London, E.C., sued Messrs. Griffin Bros., Albany Street, N.W., for 10l. 6s., the price of 106 mineral-water syphons supplied to defendants at 2s. each. The case has been several times before the Court. (See *C. & D.*, August 1, p. 194.) Plaintiffs had supplied the defendants with mineral waters, the transactions between them having extended over a number of years, and his Honour Judge Edge, in referring the matter to the Registrar for taking an account, upheld the contention of Mr. Cartwright (solicitor for defendants) that the Statute of Limitations debarred plaintiffs from suing for syphons supplied beyond the six-years' statutory limit. Dealing with it under this direction, the Registrar found that the defendants had returned more syphons than they had actually received, and judgment was then entered for the defendants. The plaintiff firm appealed, their contention being that the 117 syphons returned during the six-years' limit were in fact the identical ones supplied prior to the six years. They contended that these could not be set against the syphons supplied during the last six years. The appeal resulted in the Divisional Court setting the judgment aside (*C. & D.*, May 23, p. 798), and the matter was sent back to the County Court for a proper account to be taken of the number of syphons in dispute between the parties. The Registrar now found that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover the value of twenty-six syphons, 2l. 12s.

Mr. Lever (counsel for plaintiffs), in applying for judgment to be entered on the finding of the Registrar, asked for costs on the higher scale, on the ground that the case was of considerable importance to the trade.

His Honour: Personally, I do not think it is of the slightest importance.

Mr. Lever: We have been three times before your Honour and three times before the Registrar, and we felt it was of importance to this extent: that we went to the Divisional Court on the terms which your Honour imposed—namely, that we should bear the costs in any event. The question of "empties" is the gist of the case. We have established what we consider to be an important principle.

His Honour: What is the principle?

Mr. Lever: That the burden of proof is on the shoulders

of the customer to show that he has returned specific syphons.

His Honour: I never had any doubt on the point that where syphons, beer-barrels, wine-casks, or anything of the sort are delivered and that delivery is proved, then the onus is upon the customer to show that he has returned them. These transactions had gone on for ten or twelve years, and the only question I decided was one of limit in taking the account. I decided that plaintiffs were debarred from suing for syphons beyond the six-years' statutory limit.

Mr. Cartwright said that on the taking of the last account defendants were allowed thirty syphons for breakages. He asked that the allowance should be included in the present report.

The Judge said he was bound by the report of the Registrar, who had taken considerable trouble with the matter. The only question for him to deal with was one of costs. Judgment would be entered in plaintiffs' favour for 2*l.* 12*s.*, to be reduced to 1*s.* if the syphons were returned, which he supposed would be impossible now. Costs would be allowed on the amount recovered. He did not see any reason for giving costs on the higher scale. When transactions extended over a period of years, there ought to be a settlement at least once in six years as to what syphons had been returned. It would be unjust to say that defendants should bear the costs to settle the investigation of a long-standing account which had been allowed to stand a long time by plaintiffs themselves.

The question arose as to the costs allowed defendants when judgment was given in their favour on the first occasion. It was pointed out that in setting aside the judgment the High Court said nothing about costs.

His Honour said that before deciding the point he would look up the notes which he made on the matter when he gave judgment for defendants.

Bankruptcy Report.

Re C. W. BENTLEY, LTD., Pellon Lane, Halifax, Wholesale Druggists.—A meeting of the creditors was held at the offices of Mr. E. R. C. Kerr, Halifax, the company having gone into voluntary liquidation on November 16. Mr. Kerr was appointed liquidator, with a committee of inspection of five creditors. The statement of affairs shows liabilities amounting to 1,477*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* and assets 735*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* The creditors include: Breidenbach & Co., 78*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; Potter & Clarke, Ltd., 44*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; and T. Guest & Co., Manchester, 13*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

Deed of Arrangement.

FITTON, GEORGE WEBSTER, Fore Street, Hertford, Chemist and Druggist.—Trustee, F. G. Carter, 1 and 2 Queen Street, Cheapside, London, E.C., chartered accountant. Dated December 2; filed December 3. Liabilities unsecured 347*l.*, estimated net assets 600*l.* The following are among the creditors: Allen & Hanburys, Ltd. (10*l.*), Davy Hill & Hodgkinsons, Ltd. (10*l.*); Hearon, Squire & Francis, Ltd. (35*l.*), Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham (14*l.*).

Gazette.

Partnerships Dissolved.

BAKER, H. W., HODSON, P. G., and DAVIES, W. J., Electric Parade, Holloway, London, N., chemists and druggists, under the style of Baldwin & Co., so far as regards H. W. Baker.

BELLAMY, H. R., and DODD, H. N. N., Stockport, physicians, etc., under the style of Bellamy & Dodd.

HOLLIDAY, J., and GUTHRIE, F., West Hartlepool, mineral-water manufacturers, under the style of Holliday & Guthrie.

MACLEAY, A. R., and SHADBOLT, L. P., Bootle, Lancs. physicians, etc., under the style of Macleay & Shadbolt.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

RECEIVING ORDERS.

ANDREWS, GEORGE GENG, Twickenham, Middlesex, chemist.

TURTLE, G. F. (trading as the Luxia Co.), Wealdstone, Middlesex, and South-hill Works, Hampstead, N.W.

Winter Session.

Association Presidents.

ON the basis that the Drug Club is an association of chemists we place here to-day a portrait of the newly elected President thereof—Mr. John Charles Umney, Ph.C., F.C.S.

The Drug Club is a business and social organisation of British wholesale druggists; not all wholesale druggists are members of it, and all wholesale druggists, though they desired, could not be. The members meet twice a year, but there are less formal monthly meetings of a small committee. This week, on the eighth, the annual meeting was held in London, when Mr. Umney was advanced to the presidential chair from the vice-presidency. Sir Edward Evans was his immediate predecessor. The new Vice-President is Mr. George Bult Francis, Ph.C., F.C.S., and Mr. Chas. Alex. Hill, B.Sc., Ph.C., F.I.C., was re-elected Secretary, to which office he succeeded Mr. Umney a year or two ago. The new President is, we fancy, the youngest man who has come to the chair. Richard Banks Barron, the first President of that club on its resuscitation, was the oldest living veteran at that time, and the honour continued a tribute to years for some time. But now the British wholesale drug-trade is disposed to rely on the verve of the younger race. Mr. Umney has had in his father's pharmaceutical reputation an advantage which would have been a disadvantage to many. It rarely happens that a son "fills his father's bonnet." It was not necessary for the paternal headgear to change in this case: the son wove a cap for himself. He was educated, we believe, at Dulwich College, and from there went to serve an apprenticeship with the late William Martindale. He had manufacturing experience in the laboratories of Schimmel & Co., Leipzig, and attended the courses at the School of Pharmacy (like his father, taking the silver medal in Practical Chemistry, besides other honours). He passed the Minor in 1889, and the Major in 1890. Until he began to take a part in the management of Wright, Layman & Umney's business he did a lot of research in a wide range of pharmaceutical subjects, and has never quite left off. He is credited with having discovered the higher possibilities of Wright's coal-tar soap, besides other fields for business acumen and persistent enterprise. He is Treasurer of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, a member of the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy for the Revision of the British Pharmacopoeia, and Chairman of the Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce. In other days he held other offices, and at one time was safe for a half-century or so when his right foot was just within the crease. Now he is good for a straight mashie shot, and is still not averse to a waltz or two with a good partner.



MR. J. C. UMNEY.

Brief Records.

Three Towns Association.—At a meeting of the Junior Section of the Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse Chemists' Association on December 2, Mr. Edward Turney spoke on "Methods in Study," and gave some good advice to the students. He also commented on the work done in the recent dispensing competition.

Guildford Chemists' Association.—A meeting of this Association was held at the Angel Hotel on December 2, Mr. Wilson (Guildford) in the chair. A resolution was passed expressing confidence in the Pharmaceutical Society and approval of the action taken in regard to the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill. Suggestions were made for strengthening and amending the Bill. Messrs. Inman and Gane Inge reported on the private meeting held last month at 17 Bloomsbury Square.

Mr. Glyn-Jones at Teesside.—Under the auspices of the Teesside Chemists' Association a number of chemists from the surrounding district assembled, under the presidency of Mr. J. C. Thompson, at the Royal Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees, on December 2, to hear Mr. Glyn-Jones review the current situation of pharmacy legislation. After a clear explanation of the position of affairs, a resolution was unanimously passed approving of the policy of the Pharmaceutical Society. A collection amounting to 1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* was taken at the close for the Benevolent Fund.

Great Yarmouth Pharmaceutical Association.—The monthly meeting of this Association was held at 156 King Street on December 3, the President (Mr. T. B. Male) in the

chair. There was a good attendance. It was decided to allot the benevolent votes of the Association to Mr. George Peacock, the East Anglian applicant. The Secretary reported the progress made by the members who had joined the Rifle Club, and hoped to have a team in for competition after Christmas. The President was elected captain.

Preston Meeting.—At a meeting of chemists at the Park Hotel, Preston, on December 3, to consider the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, the following resolution was adopted by 34 votes to 2:

That this meeting of registered chemists heartily supports the action of the Pharmaceutical Council in its endeavours to assist in passing the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill this session, amended as explained by Mr. Glyn-Jones.

Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones addressed the meeting, and Mr. R. Lord Gifford was present.

Peterborough Chemists' Association.—A meeting of the Association was held at the Grand Hotel, Peterborough, on December 3. The President (Mr. W. R. Girling) was in the chair, and the following members were present: Messrs. Calcutt, Noble, John G. Sturton, Frank A. Sturton, Bayley (Uppingham), Prior (Stamford), Whitwell, Gibbons, and John W. Hall. After the ordinary business had been disposed of, Mr. W. J. Uglov Woolcock, Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Defence Union, addressed the members on the aims and advantages of the Union, after which a resolution approving of the objects of the Union was passed.

Grimsby Opposition.—A general meeting of the Grimsby Chemists' and Druggists' Association was held at Walton's Hotel on November 30. Among those present were Mr. Cox Willson (President) in the chair, Messrs. Ashton, Carr, Colley, Dewing, Ellis, Humphrey, Johnson, Robinson, Sneath, and the Hon. Secretaries (C. N. Chapman and F. W. Heely). The Secretary reported the death of Mr. G. Croft, the oldest member of the Association. The Secretary read correspondence from the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society with regard to a visit from Mr. Glyn-Jones. As no date could be arranged, it was resolved to ask the member for the borough (Sir George Doughty) to oppose the Government Poisons and Pharmacy Bill.

Manchester Optical Society.—The second meeting of the session was held at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, on December 2. Mr. J. C. Kidd (President) in the chair. The President announced that he had it on good authority that those members of the Society who had passed the S.M.C. examinations a year or more ago would receive their diplomas before the end of this year. He also stated that the personal experience of members is that where a medical man recognises and is convinced of the ability and conscientiousness of the optician, not only does he not raise any objection to the refractionist testing sight, but in many cases proffers valuable assistance, and is agreeable to co-operate. Mr. G. Bennett, of Stockport (past President), was unanimously elected an hon. vice-president. The new members elected were Miss Armstrong, Knutsford, and Mr. L. Lieberman, Manchester.

Liverpool Chemists' Association.—A special meeting was held at the Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, on December 3, to discuss the Government Poisons and Pharmacy Bill. The chair was taken by the President (Mr. J. T. Hornblower), and he was supported by the President of the Pharmaceutical Society (Mr. J. Rymer Young) and the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones). The President stated that the Bill had been read for the second time in the House that afternoon. The Chairman introduced Mr. Glyn-Jones, who gave a lucid account of the present measure and the causes which led up to it being put before the House. A vote of thanks to Mr. Glyn-Jones, proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. H. Marsden, and supported by Messrs. T. F. Abraham, A. E. Breeze, Moreton Parry, T. S. Wokes, A. J. Stones, S. Radcliffe, and Dr. Symes was carried by acclamation. There were about a hundred present, and at the conclusion of the meeting the following resolution was put, and carried without a single dissentient:

That this meeting welcomes the second reading of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, and supports the Pharmaceutical Council in its efforts to get the amendments to be proposed by the Government passed in Committee.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association.—Mr. A. W. Southall presided over a meeting of this Association held on December 2 at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, at which Mr. Fred Smith gave a lecture on "Astronomical Photography." The lecture was illustrated by a series of beautiful photographs, some being taken by Mr. Smith with a simple and inexpensive apparatus of his own devising. This apparatus was composed of two wooden boxes and two cardboard tubes, telescoping into each other. The object-lens was a spectacle-lens of about 34 in. focal length, and the enlarging-lens was also composed of spectacle-lenses. A green screen, made by cementing green gelatin between two pieces of thin

plate glass, was used partly to reduce the amount of light and partly to counteract the want of achromatism of the spectacle-lenses. A photographic shutter and quarter-plate camera back and dark slide completed the apparatus. In the course of his lecture Mr. Smith said the advances made in the science of astronomy are mainly due to spectroscopy and photography. The perfection to which photography of the heavenly bodies has now been brought has made known millions of stars of the existence of which astronomers were formerly unaware. Referring to the discussion as to whether Mars is inhabited by intelligent beings, he said the fine lines geometrically disposed just on the limit of visibility are believed by some to be canals; other astronomers disbelieve in the existence of these features, but their actuality has been proved by their occurrence in photographs obtained by Professor Lowell, who favours the view that they are artificial in their nature. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Smith at the conclusion of the lecture.

Keighley Chemists' Association.—A meeting of this Association was held on December 4. Mr. W. Ecroyd (Vice-President) in the chair. There was a good attendance. A paper was read by Mr. F. Pilkington Sargeant and Mr. J. H. Beacock, of Leeds, entitled "THE CHEMIST IN LITERATURE." Mr. Pilkington Sargeant read the main body of it, and Mr. Beacock interpolated illustrative extracts from English literature. In Great Britain, said Mr. Sargeant, the apothecary in early times combined the duties of druggist with many others, and, like the chemist and druggist of later years, he was exclusive and hard working, often being quoted in literature as an example of faithfulness to duty. Lord Chesterfield, in his Letters to his Son early in the eighteenth century, wrote: "Business one half of the day is the best preparation for pleasure in the other half. I hope and believe it will be with you as it was with an apothecary whom I knew at Twickenham," and then Lord Chesterfield went on to relate how the apothecary, upon receiving a legacy, gave up business, but, finding in less than a month that he was dying of *ennui*, re-bought his shop and stock, and again lived happily. History affording so little information as to the character of the chemist, it is not surprising that he should play such a small part in fiction. It is surprising to find that in the few cases where chemists are introduced into fiction they occupy quite subsidiary positions in the story. It might be that the methodical training and strict adherence to business have tended towards the personal isolation of the chemist, or that, while his virtues are not sufficient pronounced to make him a hero, his vices are not sufficiently prominent to make him an ideal villain. Apparently he took himself and his life too seriously to create a character fitting for comedy. After mentioning a reference to the apothecary by Richard Steele in "The Spectator," and alluding to Charles Dickens' reference to the chemist in "Well Authenticated (Spirit) Rappings"—which the lecturer said was interesting if only as a reminder of the antiquity of historic houses—he referred to the description of the apothecary's shop in "The Adventures of Mr. Ledbury," by Albert Richard Smith. Francis Anstey was also drawn upon for an incident in "A Tinted Venus," in which the goddess was persuaded to go to a chemist's shop for the testing of the ring, and in which the description of the shop and its master is distinctly ingenious. One of the best descriptions of a chemist and his shop is to be found in the short story "Wireless," by Rudyard Kipling, who betrays a knowledge of chemists and their drugs which is seldom found outside the ranks of pharmacy. Allusion was then made to the description of the chemist in Gilbert K. Chesterton's "The Napoleon of Notting Hill," which character was described as idealised out of recognition, but none the less charming. Bret Harte was drawn upon for his humorous verses, "A Chemical Narrative." Summing up, the authors of the paper called upon chemists to throw off some of their reserve, to enter more heartily into the ways of life, and to grasp more truly the objects of living. An effort should be made to overcome the parochialism which is the bane of chemists individually and collectively. A vote of thanks was accorded to the authors.

Stockport Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the County Restaurant on December 2, Mr. Ernest Wilson (Vice-President) in the chair.

The recent action of the manufacturers of methylated spirit in raising the price was discussed.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Messrs. Kay Bros., Ltd., thanking them for placing their specialities on the P.A.T.A. list.

B.P. CODEX.—Mr. A. D. Watson then read some notes on the "British Pharmaceutical Codex." After referring to the unnecessarily large size and faulty arrangement, he mentioned that the glycerin of cochineal is unsatisfactory

as a colouring liquid for confectioners and domestic use. The "chlorodyne" formula was criticised on account of the excessive quantity of morphine present. There was a short discussion and finally a vote of thanks to Mr. Watson for his paper.

Tunbridge Wells Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held on December 4 at 33 Mount Pleasant, the President (Mr. B. Chatterton) in the chair. There was a good attendance of members.

THE LOCAL M.P.—The interview which a deputation from the Association had with the local member of Parliament was described, and it was resolved to write and thank him for his efforts on behalf of the individual chemist.

JUNIOR EXAMINATION.—It was decided to hold the annual examination for the junior members of the craft during January. Names of intending competitors should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at the General Hospital. Mr. Wallis, Ph.C., F.I.C., science master at the Technical Institute, is to conduct the examination. There are two prizes given by the Association. The questions on chemistry, materia medica, and pharmacy will be elementary.

THE POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL.—A discussion arose regarding the Bill, and a fear was expressed that the Pharmaceutical Society had gained very little in the negotiations which had taken place. It was thought that the directors clause would be whittled down and most probably disappear entirely during the Committee stage of the Bill.

Blackpool and Fylde Chemists' Association.

THE monthly meeting of this Association was held at the Palatine Hotel, Blackpool, on December 4. the President (Mr. H. M. Johnson) in the chair.

Mr. W. S. Parker was elected a member.

A resolution was passed thanking the Pharmaceutical Society for giving the members an opportunity of hearing Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—It was decided to open as on Sundays on Christmas Day, December 28, New Year's Day, and January 4. It was decided to drop early-closing on Wednesdays, December 23 and 30.

AN ASSOCIATION'S USEFULNESS

was the title of a paper which was then read by Mr. D. J. Bailey. The Association would be more useful if it undertook matters which would be of local interest and of direct benefit to the members. In regard to the apprentice-problem, the Association might fix a wage-schedule, as apprentices now seldom pay a premium, and generally live out. Mr. Bailey also suggested that chemists should agree not to take another chemist's apprentice unless he has served his full time. To prevent the accumulation of a stock of new remedies it was suggested that each member of the Association should make out a list of the rarer articles he has in stock, so that chemists could oblige each other with small quantities of new remedies, and not have to purchase an original package, of which probably only a little would be required. Mr. Bailey also proposed the compilation of a price-list and formulary.

A short discussion took place, and Mr. Bailey was accorded a vote of thanks.

Dewsbury Chemists' Association.

THE monthly meeting of this association was held on December 7 at the Church House, Dewsbury. Mr. J. Day (President) in the chair. There were also present Messrs. A. Barker and F. Mallinson (Heckmondwike), J. Blakeley (Birstall), R. Broadhead (Batley), J. Rhodes (Mirfield), S. N. Pickard (Ossett), G. W. Gutteridge, G. Walker, and R. Gledhill (Dewsbury).

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL.—Mr. Broadhead asked Mr. Blakeley why he had changed his attitude with regard to the decision to oppose the Bill. Mr. Blakeley pointed out that he still agreed with Mr. Broadhead's arguments but he could not see any remedy for the evil they alleged. If the matter had been tackled twenty years ago they could have got the title reserved. Nothing short of a miracle could alter the thing now, and the Bill would pass in spite of them. Mr. Broadhead proceeded to criticise the action of the Pharmaceutical Council, and referring to the "Journal," declared that although that magazine was supposed to be their own they had no more freedom in it than in any of the

trade papers. He spoke of his own letters as having been refused insertion, and said it was because they could not bear the simple truth. He claimed that machinery had been utilised to protect a class of people who had broken the law ever since 1868. He described the new Bill as a sort of socialism in which the qualified man with the title was to divide that title with the capitalist, but there was nothing said as to the capitalist dividing his capital with the man who had earned the title. He asked how they were going to use the title "pharmacist," and how they were going to prevent that title being used by certain companies. In fact, in his opinion the Council had been slippery, careless, indifferent, and apathetic.—Mr. Gledhill defended the Council, and declared that the 1880 case did decide against them on the question of titles.—Mr. Pickard prophesied that they had arrived at a crisis, and that they would find that many chemists would discontinue their subscriptions to the Society.

It was decided to hear a delegate of the Pharmaceutical Defence Union at a future meeting.

Leicester Chemists' Association.

ON December 1 a meeting of the above Association was held at Winn's Turkey Café, Leicester, when Mr. Lewis Ough, F.C.S., read a paper entitled "Some Pharmaceutical and Chemical Curiosities," these being collected during the past few years.

Mr. S. F. Burford, F.C.S. (President), took the chair, and there were also present Messrs. E. B. Ward, B. Ward, Thirby, Hampton, Hind, Lewis, Hearnshaw, Fry, Blockley, Tomlin, Pickering, Cross, and Avery and Marfitt, Hon. Secs., and nine assistants.

Mr. B. Ward was elected a member of the Association.

Mr. Lewis Ough then gave a description of the articles he had brought together, which included:

EXAMPLES OF ADULTERATED DRUGS.

Cape Aloes.—Adulterated with stones as large as horse-beans.

Monkey Aloes.—Earth and stone. The chips of stone being from a stone weighing some 30 lb.

Opium.—Strips of lead, bullets, shot, stones, and wood.

Benzoïn.—One sample showing 30 per cent. adulteration with lumps of broken wood.

Squill.—A most unusual adulteration with pieces of quartz or felspar, being embedded in the squill was very difficult of detection by appearance in the bulk.

Gum Ammoniacum.—Small stones of same colour and appearance.

Citric Acid Crystals.—Adulterated with crystals of alum.

Cream of Tartar.—With 15 gr. arsenic and 2 gr. lead to the lb. respectively.

He said his experience was that almost all essential oils are adulterated in one way or another, some being extremely difficult of detection. Mr. Ough also exhibited some fine examples of rare or curious drugs, and, addressing the students present, said he sometimes heard complaints that the samples of salts given in examinations, the "Students' Corner" of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, were insufficient in quantity. To refute this argument he exhibited a small case containing in small bottles the results of reactions obtained in testing for a case of suspected lead-poisoning from diachylon pills. He had had half a pill to test with, weighing 2.14 grains only, and the case showed the resulting lead iodide, chromate, sulphide, sulphate, and oleic acid.

Mr. H. Pickering showed two very old blown-glass stock bottles and (1) his father's price-list dated 1844 (manuscript), with such prices obtained as: Aq. Calcis, 1d. per 3j, 6d. per pint; Ac. Acetic, 7s. lb.; Ac. Citric, 1s. 2d. per oz.; Sodii Chloride, 4d. oz.; Quin. Sulph. 14s. oz.; Sp. Terebinth, 3d. oz., 3s. 4d. pint; Tinct. Ferri Mur., 8d. oz.; Tinct. Benz. Co., 9d. oz.; Zinci Oxid., 1s. oz.; Seidlitz Powders, 2s. 6d. per box; (2) Pharmacopœia of 1818; (3) "Complete Surgeon," e libra Thos. Towers, 1696, a very curious old book.

Mr. G. Hampton showed an old drug catalogue by Isaac Selve, Bristol, 1817, without prices; and Mr. Burford showed a museum sample of Copal, originally mounted by Pereira.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the exhibitors, especially to Mr. Ough for his most interesting talk.

Observations and Reflections.

By "Xrayser."

The Seven Years' War

in the domain of pharmacy is approaching its end, for it is fairly certain that no serious obstacles need be apprehended in the remaining stages of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill. Cranks and obstructionists get scant encouragement in the Standing Committees, and the concordat which has survived the risks of the second reading in the House of Commons may be reasonably trusted to wear till the end of the Session. Mr. Samuel testifies that the three principal parties in the contest—the "organised chemists," as he calls us, the drug-stores, and the co-operative societies—come out of the struggle "reconciled to one another." This is news to many of us—and disappointing news to some. Next year promises to be a cheerless one if our long-cherished grievance is to be buried and the iniquities of our competitors are to be forgotten. A banquet to celebrate this *Entente Cordiale* is necessary to start us on the new road, and it is not too early for Mr. Rymer Young and Mr. Jesse Boot to be preparing their mutually complimentary speeches.

Innumerable Communications,

said one member, had been received by representatives from their constituents on both sides of the controversy, and Mr. Samuel stated that their letter-bags had been filled with our missives. It is sad for us to realise, as we now may, how little attention must have been given by some of our legislators to the cogent arguments and impassioned eloquence we have wasted on them. Three members speaking consecutively in last week's debate, to all of whom copies of the Bill had been supplied at the public expense, discussed it as a proposal for limiting the facilities for obtaining arsenical luxuries. Another was in favour of the measure because it dealt with the drug-habit. Vague ideas about vitriol floated through the conversation, the "oil" and the "blue" being evidently entangled in the meshes of the speakers' brains. It is fair to admit, however, that several members appear to have had an intelligent idea of the subject before them. Among these Mr. Ashley (M.P. for Blackpool), Mr. Vivian (M.P. for Birkenhead), and Sir Henry Craik (member for the Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, and formerly Secretary to the Scotch Education Department) deserve honourable mention.

One Pretty Cameo

in the debate is worthy of special setting. It may be described as "Saint Smith and his Pledge." Mr. F. E. Smith, a barrister who has distinguished himself in this Parliament as a brilliant Conservative controversialist, gave a pledge at the general election—presumably to the "organised chemists"—and, not being an old Parliamentary hand, this pledge was a trouble to his tender conscience. So he appealed for moral guidance to the Government which he usually denounces as the responsible author of so many immoral iniquities. Could he vote for the second reading of this Bill without violating the pledge he had given? Mr. Winfrey, assuming for the moment the functions of a bishop, attempted to relieve Mr. Smith's dilemma by assuring him that the Bill now submitted for his approval was satisfactory to the Pharmaceutical Society. But that reply was mere casuistry. The general election, let it be remembered, happened some three years ago, and how many of those of us who have followed closely the varying phases of pharmaceutical policy during the last decade could say without reference which particular one was to the front at the remote period when Mr. Smith gave his pledge? Luckily that gentleman was not required to commit himself; but the incident is gratifying, because it shows that there is at any rate one M.P. who regards an election-pledge as equivalent to a bond.

Morehouse's Comet,

now happily removing from our neighbourhood in space was a peculiarly undesirable acquaintance for our earth. Spectral analysis proved that it carried with it an atmosphere largely composed of cyanogen, and

the French popular writer on astronomical subjects, Camille Flammarion, has calculated that if that atmosphere and ours had come into contact we should have been enveloped in several million cubic centimetres of a gas which he frivolously remarks would have brought to a sudden conclusion the discussions on the "impôts du revenu." Our insular position would not have saved us from such an invader, and our tariff-reform debates would have ended in the same sudden fashion. It is now "up against" our chemists to devise a means of breathing prussic acid innocuously.

The General Medical Council

are asking the Government to appoint a Royal Commission "to inquire into the evil effects produced by the unrestricted practice of medicine and surgery by unqualified persons." This looks like a concession to the elected representatives on the Council. Hitherto the appointed members have managed to avoid conflict with the obvious and expressed will of the nation in regard to medical practice, but it has needed some diplomacy to maintain this position without giving too much offence to those of their own household. Representing in a sense a constituency of some thirty thousand persons the vast majority of whom are convinced that society is unjust towards them, the Council acquired the discredit of an Act which did so little in the direction of fulfilling professional demands. Comprising nominees of seventeen independent and to some extent competing diploma-dealers, entrusted with extremely delicate judicial powers, and authorised to control the educational provisions for the medical men of the future, the Medical Council had abundant opportunities of dissensions and failure; and to historically minded observers who are familiar with the chronic jealousies, law-suits, and apparently irreconcilable rivalries of the several branches of medical practice, of physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, their success in inducing all these sections to work together for the common good has been extraordinary. The substitution of a British Pharmacopœia for the three previously existing national ones may be cited as a particular instance of the Council's tact, for though everyone was agreed on the desirability of such a fusion, difficulties of detail must have occurred on almost every page; while all through the half-century the best expert pharmaceutical assistance has had to be secured in the face of the fierce resentment of pharmacists at their unrecognised position, and it has been obtained by skilful management on the most economical, not to say parsimonious, terms.

The Protection of Title,

and that only, was the policy deliberately adopted by Parliament in the case of the Medical Act of 1858. Previously it was usual enough to protect practice, as was done in the cases of the old monopolies, and in the Acts still in force concerning attorneys and apothecaries. Subsequent to 1858, pharmaceutical chemists, dentists, veterinary surgeons, and midwives have been furnished with the same degree of protection as was granted to medical practitioners, but only with the expressed intention, as has been formally stated, of providing the public with the means of distinguishing between qualified and unqualified persons in the several professions. Dentists and veterinary surgeons have long been eager to secure something more like a monopoly of practice in their respective professions. In *Barnes v. Brown* the dentists have made a long stride forward towards their object, and I think their organ, the "Journal of the British Dental Association," is justified in asserting that if the announcement of "Teeth Painlessly Extracted" is a claim of special qualification, as the Judges say it is, a simple announcement of "Teeth Extracted" is equally so. Every person who undertakes to extract teeth implicitly contracts to do so with a certain degree of skill—claims, in fact, special qualification within the meaning of the Act as interpreted by the Lord Chief Justice. "U.D.P.," who wrote in the *C. & D.* on November 28, wanted to make terms with the dentists. A better policy will be to provide the Association with plenty of rope. Let an action be fought on the clear issue of a "Teeth Extracted" announcement. Either the High Court will have to modify its attitude or it will become imperative to go to Parliament to demand a definite explanation of the intention of the statute.

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Editorial Comments.

"On the Floor of the House."

A GOOD many times within the past few years the hope has been expressed that if only the case for the chemist could be clearly stated on the floor of the House of Commons members would at once see that justice was done. By one of those chances which do not often happen, the Bill suddenly claimed the attention of the Commons. We reported last week in condensed form the discussion that took place, and this week we give a verbatim report of what was said on that historic occasion. As was explained last week, the critical state of the negotiations regarding the now defunct Education Bill gave the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill the opportunity of obtaining its second reading. Most chemists will experience a feeling of disappointment on studying carefully the various speeches that were made on December 3. The impression that will be left on most minds is that members of Parliament, as judged from their speeches, are very imperfectly equipped to legislate for such a peculiar craft as pharmacy. Some of the speakers do not appear to have read the Bill, or, having read it, did not grasp the meaning of the clauses. The utterances of Mr. Herbert Samuel in introducing the Bill and in replying to the criticisms that were levelled at the Bill are in striking contrast to those of some of the other members spoke. Sir Frederick Banbury, one of the members of Parliament for the City of London, who was the first speaker, has the reputation of being able to speak at any time on any subject, and for any length of time, and when he caught the Speaker's eye there were fears that his was the beginning of a "talking out" process. Sir Frederick stated that he had been interviewed by both sides, but he seems to have brought away only hazy ideas of what the "Grocers' Association" wanted. The Association, he said, "regretted that grocers should be allowed to sell poisonous substances provided they were wrapped in a label which bore the name of a certified chemist." It is probable that the grocers tried to convey the exact opposite to their member of Parliament; but as the House of Commons

supplies an unlimited number of copies of each Bill to the members at the public expense, there is not much excuse for this speaker's lapse. Mr. F. E. Smith's remarks referred to a deputation of chemists that had waited upon him and had favourably impressed him in regard to their "highly specialised education." Mr. Winfrey, of course, was *au courant* with the contents of the Bill; but he was only called upon to assure the House that chemists agreed upon the company clause. Mr. Idris, who spoke later on, was also able to throw some light on the question before the House. Viscount Helmsley wanted to be sure that licences would be freely granted, and had something to say about the necessity for controlling the sale of "vitriol." Until he spoke of vitriol-throwing his hearers might have thought he was referring to sulphate of copper, which is what agriculturists call "vitriol." The noble lord has evidently very hazy notions about poisons, for, whereas he wants to make the sale of arsenic easier, he does not think that labelling sulphuric acid "poison" and taking the name of the purchaser is sufficient precaution. Mr. Rees asked whether the Bill will prevent ironmongers from selling weed-killers and sheep-dips, because if so he thought it a "rather harsh measure." Mr. Hicks Beach was under a similar misapprehension in regard to the provisions of the Bill. Mr. Scott spoke up for "the great business undertakings"—the Stores—which he did not want to see obliged to take a chemist on to the board of directors. Lord Balcarras took up this point, and was hopelessly at sea in regard to the rights of veterinary chemists to sell sheep-dips. When one knows the sort of men who often serve on boards of directors, Lord Balcarras's sneer regarding the uselessness of chemists on a board may be neglected. His Lordship also talked a good deal of nonsense about explosives and labelling. Mr. Courthope wanted the facilities for obtaining agricultural and horticultural poisons extended, and has since put down amendments to secure this end. Mr. Annan Bryce revealed the fact that the grocers in his district deal in poisons to a great extent. Mr. Ashley raised the question of the drug-habit, and wanted power given to make more stringent regulations to control the sale of morphine. Mr. Vivian stated that co-operative societies are satisfied with the Bill, and he showed that the Bill does not prevent corporate bodies from using titles which would amply inform the public of the kind of business that the company was carrying on. Mr. Forster also favoured the Bill because it dealt with the drug-habit; but when challenged to point out the clause his reference to the poisons schedule was not happy. He asserted that morphine and opium were placed in the poison schedule of the Bill for the first time. Mr. Hedges, who had been interviewed by the chemists of Tunbridge Wells, spoke up for the title "chemist and druggist" as a personal one. The title "pharmacist" would, he said, be obscure to the man-in-the-street. Sir Henry Craik could not see that it was fair to qualified chemists to sweep away the restrictions on the sale of poisons "simply because agricultural constituents of certain hon. gentlemen would find it a little more convenient to have free trade in poisons." Sir Henry represents Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, and probably does not know what it is to be pestered by the secretaries of Chambers of Agriculture into promising anything for the sake of peace and quietness. Mr. Straus took up the drug-habit question, and suggested that the dispensing of prescriptions containing dangerous drugs should be subjected to a time-limit. Mr. Dillon referred to the need for more poison-sellers in Ireland, and was under the impression that copper sulphate is a scheduled poison. Another Irish member, Mr. Charles Craig, brought up the question of extending Clause 3 (the company clause) to Ireland.

On the whole the discussion was unfavourable to the Bill, and if the opposition develops, as it may do, after the Committee stage, there is yet time for the Bill to be wrecked. There is reason, however, to believe that the Government intend pressing the Bill forward, but it is to be hoped that in facilitating its progress more concessions will not be made. Generous compromises have already been made, and there is no further need for extending the number of poisons which may be sold by licensed persons.

The Irish Situation.

If it was desired that Clause 3 should apply to Ireland, he should be happy to take representations on the point into consideration. There had been communications with the Irish Government, but he was not convinced that there was the same agreement in Ireland as in England with regard to Clause 3. He need hardly say, however, that if there was a general desire among Irish representatives that the clause should be extended to Ireland, with the necessary modifications, of course, the Government would be very glad indeed to do all in its power to meet their wishes.

Soon after Mr. Herbert Samuel had spoken these words in the House of Commons on December 3, Mr. John Smith (President) and Mr. W. F. Wells (ex-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland) interviewed him in regard to including Ireland within the scope of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill to a greater extent than is done by Sub-section (1) of Clause 6, which, it will be recollected, was added during the progress of the Bill through the House of Lords. The view taken in Ireland is that if Irish pharmacists and druggists are to have their rights under the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) encroached upon by the creation of a new class of licensed poison-sellers, the good features of the Bill should also, as far as possible, be extended to Ireland. The company-pharmacy difficulty is not so acute in Ireland as it is in Great Britain, but there is every reason to believe that now the facilities for trading as limited companies have been increased, and when the convenience of trading as limited companies becomes appreciated to the same extent as it is in Great Britain, there will be a greater number of companies carrying on a pharmacy business. It was felt, therefore, that Clause 3, which regulated companies, might be applied to Ireland, and prevent trouble in the future. The difficulties in the way of adapting a clause which would cover the differing conditions which prevail in Ireland were great, but eventually the following sub-sections to Clause 6 were drawn up, which, it was believed, would meet the situation:

(2) As regards Ireland the following provisions shall be substituted for the provisions of Sub-section 4 of Clause 3 of this Act relative to Bodies Corporate, and shall have effect accordingly, that is to say:

(a) A Body Corporate may carry on the business of a Pharmaceutical Chemist in Ireland.

1. If the business of the Body Corporate so far as it relates to the keeping retailing or dispensing of poisons or to the retailing dispensing or compounding of medical prescriptions is under the control or management of a superintendent who is a duly registered Pharmaceutical Chemist or Licentiate Apothecary whose name has been forwarded to the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to be entered by him in a Register to be kept for that purpose, and who does not act at the same time in a similar capacity for any other person or Body Corporate,

and if in every premises where such business as aforesaid is carried on and is not personally conducted by the superintendent such business is *bona fide* conducted under the direction of the superintendent by a manager or assistant who is a duly registered Pharmaceutical Chemist or Licentiate Apothecary and whose certificate of Qualification is conspicuously exhibited in the shop or other place in which he so conducts the business.

(b) A Body Corporate may use in Ireland the description of "Pharmaceutical Chemist" or "Dispensing Chemist" if the requirements of paragraph (a) of this Sub-section as to the carrying on of the business are observed, and if the superintendent of the business is a member of the Board of

Directors or other governing body of the Body Corporate as the case may be.

(c) A Body Corporate may carry on the business of a Chemist and Druggist or Druggist in Ireland.

(1) If the business of the Body Corporate so far as relates to the keeping retailing or dispensing of poisons is under the control and management of a superintendent who is a duly registered Pharmaceutical Chemist or duly registered Chemist and Druggist or duly registered Druggist whose name has been forwarded to the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to be entered by him in a Register to be kept for that purpose, and who does not at the same time act in a similar capacity for any other person or Body Corporate,

and

11. If in every premises where such business as aforesaid is carried on and is not personally conducted by the superintendent by a manager or assistant who is a duly registered Pharmaceutical Chemist or Licentiate Apothecary or duly registered Chemist and Druggist or duly registered Druggist, and whose certificate of Qualification is conspicuously exhibited in the shop or other place in which he so conducts the business.

(d) A Body Corporate may use in Ireland the description of "Chemist and Druggist" or "Druggist" if the requirements of the paragraph (c) of this Sub-section as to the carrying on of the business are observed, and if the superintendent is a member of the Board of Directors or other governing body of the Body Corporate as the case may be.

(e) Subject as aforesaid Section 30 of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) 1875 and Sections 15 and 18 of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) 1875 Amendment Act 1890 shall apply to a Body Corporate in like manner as they apply to an individual.

(f) The provisions of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) 1875 and of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) 1875 Amendment Act 1890 with respect to the Registers thereby authorised shall with the necessary modifications extend and apply to the Registers directed by this Section.

(3) (e) So much of Section 4 of this Act as enables bye-laws to be made for the purposes mentioned in paragraph (b) of that Section shall apply to Ireland with the following modifications:

(a) For the reference to the Pharmaceutical Society there shall be substituted a reference to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

(b) For the reference to the Pharmacy Acts 1852 and 1868 there shall be substituted a reference to the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) 1875 and for the reference to Section 2 of the Pharmacy Act 1852 there shall be substituted a reference to Section 16 of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) 1875.

(c) The reference to "Chemists and Druggists" shall not apply.

(d) The expression "bye-laws" shall include "regulations."

The amendments were submitted to Mr. Herbert Samuel and tentatively approved. He asked for an assurance that the amendments were approved by the companies in Ireland, so that the progress of the Bill would not be delayed in the House of Commons. If an agreed amendment could not be produced, the Under-Secretary intimated that he would be obliged to drop the Irish clause which he had expressed his willingness to insert. The President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland thereupon undertook to obtain the opinions of some of the leading Irish companies carrying on a pharmacy business upon the proposed clause. With this intention the following letter, with copies of the draft clause, was sent out:

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

Dear Sirs.—We are negotiating with Mr. Samuel, through the Irish Office, with a view to having the English Clause with reference to giving the title and the right to companies to carry on the business of Pharmaceutical Chemists or Druggists in Ireland extended to Ireland.

He requires from us evidence that the existing companies in Ireland would agree to the introduction of the Clause of which I enclose you a copy (which has been drafted by the Irish Office). You will perceive that there is nothing in the proposed Clause which would in any way interfere with existing rights and will place the companies in the same position as individuals.

As the Committee is to meet at the House of Commons on Monday, will you be good enough to wire me to-morrow morning giving me permission to use your name as assenting to the proposed amendments. Confirm same by letter.

I am, dear Sirs, yours faithfully,

JOHN SMITH,
President.

December 4, 1908.

The greater number of those communicated with agreed to the clause, but the terms were not quite acceptable to others. The expression in the letter that the clause "will place the companies in the same position as individuals" was misunderstood. It should be explained that in Ireland the forms which candidates have to fill up for admission to the Pharmaceutical Licence examination include one of personal service with a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, which is more stringent than the declaration of "three years' experience in dispensing physicians' prescriptions" needed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Trouble has arisen over the matter in Ireland as far as concerns limited companies. A company such as Messrs. Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson, Ltd., Dublin, where all the directors and shareholders are pharmacists, it has been decided in the courts, may attest such a declaration of service as is needed by a Licence candidate, but not a company constituted on other lines—e.g., where some of the directors are non-pharmacists. These companies contend that if the clause is to put them in the "same position as individuals," it means that they will be allowed to sign the licence declaration for their apprentices. This, however, was not the intention of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, which had particularly in view the use of title. The companies' contention is also held by the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland, whose President (Mr. Samuel Gibson, J.P.) and Mr. Suffern have been in London all the week interviewing members of Parliament and negotiating with those who hold the opposite view. Other members of the Society of Chemists and Druggists of Ireland and representatives of well-known Irish pharmacy-companies came over on Wednesday, and, as stated elsewhere, had an interview with Mr. Herbert Samuel on the apprentice-question. The result is not altogether satisfactory, as it seems to have convinced the Under-Secretary that unanimity between the various parties is a long way off. He has indicated that the Irish clauses may be dropped and the subject dealt with in a separate Bill. There are other points which the Society of Chemists and Druggists of Ireland are also endeavouring to obtain. The "Widows Clause" of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, which is looked at in Ireland as an advantage to chemists, the Chemists' and Druggists' Society would like to see extended to Ireland. It was also felt that the present Bill would be the proper place in which to introduce a definition of "prescription." This latter point arises from the fact that there is uncertainty as to whether a registered druggist may legally make up veterinary compounds or domestic recipes. To definitely exclude these from the term "prescription," which in Ireland may only be compounded by pharmaceutical chemists or apothecaries, is the object of endeavour to get a definition inserted in the present Bill. The attempt to define a prescription has shown that the matter is not such a simple thing after all, but the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland are confident that such a definition can be drawn up.

The New Diary.

THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1909 will have been delivered to all our home subscribers soon after this issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST appears. The copies for colonial and foreign readers have already been despatched and in every case should reach their destination before the New Year. We have always made a point of delivering the DIARY in good time, so that it can be used by our subscribers from the first day of January. The 1909 edition we believe reaches the high-water mark and, as on former occasions, we have endeavoured to make the contents of practical value to chemists and druggists in

business. We have no doubt that our efforts in this respect will again be appreciated. A feature that has been introduced this year is to place in the diary space for each day a striking saying of a well-known pharmacist or an apt aphorism regarding pharmacy. There are several new treatises, some of which we enumerate :

Business-building for Chemists.

Five Pharmacopœias compared.

The most recent New Remedies.

Formulas for Medicinal Specialities and from the French Codex.

Dictionary of Foreign Prescription-terms.

Freeman on Limited Partnerships and Private Companies.

In addition, the DIARY contains the latest information about dutiable medicines, London hospitals, the Pharmacy Acts, and other laws relating to drug-trade practice. This is the forty-first year of the publication of the DIARY, and the new edition will be found a worthy successor of a long line of useful drug-trade diaries.

November Trade.

THE Board of Trade Returns for November continue to tell the tale of shrinkage which has been a main feature of our oversea trade; in fact, they appear on the whole to be the worst this year. In exports, the falling-off amounted to 6,715,000/., while the reduction in the month's imports amounted to 7,238,000/., and exports of imported goods fell by 550,476/., to 6,682,000/.. The details for November, with comparisons carried back to 1906, are as follows :

	1908	1907	1906
	£	£	£
Imports ..	49,908,293	7,237,650	5,878,786
Brit. exports ..	29,147,415	6,714,761	3,827,747
Re-exports ..	6,682,193	5,074,6	610,468
	85,731,901	13,401,665	10,277,01

For the eleven months of the year the exports show a falling-off of 45,645,000/., or 11.6 per cent., as compared with the "boom" year of 1907, although they still show a slight increase of 3,554,000/., or 1 per cent., as compared with 1906. The shrinkage in imports amounts to the large total of 53,539,000/., or 9.1 per cent., and even compared with 1906 there is a shrinkage of seventeen millions sterling. Looking at last month's trading we find that the contraction was an all-round one, there being a substantial decline in imports of raw materials by 4,740,000/., among which raw cotton figured for 2,528,000/., this being due in a great measure to lower prices. Food, drink, and tobacco were also down by 943,000/., and of foreign manufactured goods our purchases were 1,559,000/., less, this declension applying to fourteen out of the sixteen scheduled items. In this group chemicals were 108,500/., less, the November imports being worth 871,000/.; the heaviest falls were in boron compounds (23,921/.), unenumerated chemicals (31,308/.), aniline and naphthalene dye-stuffs (23,121/.), unenumerated drugs (11,075/.), and painters' colours and pigments (43,000/.). Imports of quinine declined by 44,194 oz., worth 1,646/.

Glancing at the export trading for the month, we find that of the total shrinkage of 6,715,000/., no less than 5,629,000/., consists of manufactured goods. Here, again, cotton goods are responsible for a reduction of 3,283,000/.. Raw materials were also 823,700/., less, while of food, drink, and tobacco exports shrank 124,300/.. Chemicals show a fall of 113,781/., the exports being as follows :

	1906	1907	1908
	£	£	£
November ..	1,360,483	1,374,360	1,260,579

The principal declines in this department included copper sulphate (5,857/.), painters' colours and materials (24,650/.), coal products, not dyes (15,523/.), and unenumerated drugs and medicines (13,600/.) Quinine exports were 4,406 oz., or 130/., less, the shipments of British make having been 115,614 oz. for the month, and on the eleven completed months of the year exports were 724,818 oz., as compared with 1,049,795 oz. in 1907; the exports of quinine declared as of foreign make have been 83,137 oz. only, or 232,843 oz. less than at the corresponding period of last year. It will be seen that the month's trading on the whole has been one of all-round and severe contraction, and the inference is that there will be no improvement until we are well in the New Year. Industrial conditions abroad, especially in Germany, are not bright at the present time, added to which the political situation in the Near East will have a distinct check on any business expansion for the next three months. On the other hand, the United States is slowly emerging from the acute depression which has prevailed throughout the year, and it is believed that 1909 will witness a full resumption of commercial activity in that direction at least.

Medicines in Japan.

A Yokohama correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" deals with the relations between the Government analysts and the drug-importers in Japan. The article in question appears to be based on information already given fully in these columns by our correspondent, Mr. E. O. James (*C. & D.*, 1908, I., 902). The writer deals first with the increasing imports of drugs and the strict enforcement of the Ph. Jap. III. requirements by the authorities. The Japanese merchants have followed the practice of demanding guarantees from the importers. The latter send the samples for analysis at the Government laboratories, who issue stamps if the articles are in accordance with the regulations. The importers formerly required the manufacturers to take up the guarantee, but the German manufacturers will now no longer guarantee drugs to be in accordance with Ph. Jap. III. owing to their unfortunate experiences in the unjustifiable rejection of various goods. Articles accepted a year ago under the Ph. Jap. II. have been rejected under the third Pharmacopœia, although the requirements have remained the same. The lack of information on the certificate is another point dilated upon as follows :

It is really difficult not to suspect that the Japanese Laboratories form their decisions according to reasons of opportunity—as, for instance, to give a preference to Japanese over European importers. A Yokohama importing firm forwarded a drug to the Government Laboratory for testing, and it was rejected as "bad." A sample of the same drug, which had been duly certified by a chemist in Germany as being in accordance with the Japanese regulations, was simultaneously forwarded by the Kobe branch of the same firm to the Osaka Laboratory, which declared the article to be "good" without any objections.

The main difference between the "Zeitung's" communication and the *C. & D.* article is that in the latter the substance in question is named—viz., ammon. sulphichthylol. The remedy proposed is a higher analytical appeal, while it is also suggested that the question should be raised in connection with the revision of the treaties of commerce in 1910-11. The last portion of the previous sentence appears to be the only new fact in the communication. Other views of the subject have appeared in the *C. & D.* correspondence columns, November 14, p. 773, and November 21, p. 805.

Westminster Wisdom.

(From our Parliamentary Representatives.)

THE POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL.

In his speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday night the Prime Minister said: "There are two Bills at present before Select or Standing Committees, which we expect will be placed on the statute-book. One of these is the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill."

THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Bill was referred to Standing Committee A, to which it is customary to add additional members according to the Bill which has to be considered. The following fifteen members were added on December 7 for the purpose of considering the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill: Sir John Tuke, Mr. Cross, Viscount Helmsley, Captain Craig, Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland, Sir James Duckworth, Mr. Idris, Mr. Dillon, Sir Walter Nugent, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Winfrey, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Vivian, and Mr. George Thorne. Another method of adding members specially interested in particular Bills is to discharge members who are already on the Committee and appoint others in their place. In this way Mr. T. W. Russell was appointed in place of Mr. Herbert Gladstone, and Mr. Atherley-Jones in place of Colonel Seely.

THE IRISH CLAUSE.

We are informed that a small deputation from the Irish Pharmaceutical Society waited privately this week upon Mr. Herbert Samuel, at the House of Commons, for the purpose of discussing certain aspects of the position of Ireland under the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill now before Parliament. Mr. T. H. Sloan introduced the deputation, which included Dr. Bushby, Dr. G. Clarke, and Mr. J. Horner Haslett (son of the late Sir James Haslett, M.P.). The interview took place in the private room of the Under-Secretary, and the point raised had reference to the question of apprentices. The deputation made it clear that they did not object to the Companies clause provided that the Government would accept an amendment in Committee dealing with the position of apprentices under the Bill. Certain rights are claimed by the apprentices, and in regard to these the companies possess the right of veto. Mr. Herbert Samuel, in reply, pointed out that it was impossible at this period of the Session to include anything in the Bill which was of a controversial character. We understand that, as a result of the interview, the Companies clause will be abandoned so far as Ireland is concerned, although it is quite possible, of course, that a Bill dealing with this and other points raised in regard to Ireland may be introduced in the course of next Session.

Some confusion appears to have arisen out of the references made to Ireland by Mr. Herbert Samuel in the debate on the second reading of the Bill, and it was the intention of Mr. Vincent Kennedy, who was a member of the Joint Committee, to have made the position of his countrymen quite clear had the opportunity presented itself.

Thursday's Proceedings.

COMMITTEE STAGE.

The Bill came before Standing Committee A on Thursday morning, when the chair was occupied by Mr. E. Wason.

Public interest in the debate was evidenced by the crowded condition of the room. Among those present were Mr. Almeric Fitzroy (Clerk to the Privy Council) and several Home Office officials, and, in addition, Mr. Glyn-Jones (Parliamentary Secretary to the Pharmaceutical Society) and other interested parties.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill without any amendment or discussion. On the consideration of

CLAUSE 2.

Mr. Samuel said: The first amendment standing in my name is in line twenty, to leave out the words "containing arsenic, tobacco, or the alkaloids of tobacco." The clause as it stands is wrongly drafted; a solution containing strychnine and a little tobacco would be included under this clause. I propose to omit these words, and insert later an amendment providing that the solution must be poisonous by reason of the substances named here.

Mr. Cross said if they left out the words, and the amendment which was to be proposed later was not carried, they would be in a position of considerable difficulty.

Mr. Samuel: I shall certainly press for the insertion of the other words.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Samuel: I now move to insert in line twenty-three, after the word "killers," the words "which are poisonous by reason of their containing arsenic, tobacco, or the alkaloids of tobacco." I see there is an amendment on the paper in the name of the honourable member for the Rye division which is hostile to any limitation of the character of sheep-dips and weed-killers. The honourable member is not in his place, but I gather that Lord Ronaldshay will move the amendment. The honourable member for the Rye division has another amendment, to permit poisonous substances to be sold not only as weed-killers or sheep-dips, but for any other agricultural or horticultural purpose. It will be at once seen that this proposal is one which, if carried, will give every facility to agriculturists, and which will considerably modify the whole purpose of the clause. I am therefore not surprised to find that when these amendments appeared on the paper those who specially represent the interests of the chemists put down other amendments restricting the operations of this clause, and one amendment to omit the clause altogether. I hope the Committee will not depart from the present wording in either direction, and that it will neither accept the amendments enlarging the scope nor those limiting it. Two questions are raised here. There is the question of the position of a chemist, which is a protected position, and the question of public interest in reference to the sale of poisons. I will take the second one first. The noble lord's first proposal would allow any poison to form part of these substances, not merely those specified in the Bill. That is a most dangerous proposal. Any of these weed-killers, sheep-dips, or insecticides might contain a large quantity of strychnine, or it might contain any dangerous poison. There is every reason, from the standpoint of public safety, not to go beyond the actual necessities of the case, and not to allow any individual to select any poison and sell it through the agency of persons who have no pharmaceutical knowledge. The clause as it stands is quite sufficient while it allows further substances to those scheduled to be added by Order in Council. In regard to the second proposal, which is to permit these substances to be sold by licensed persons other than chemists for agricultural and horticultural purposes, I wish to point out that the wording is very vague, and if for no other reason, the amendment would be bad. If the amendment were carried, any dangerous poison could be sold if it were stated that it was for agricultural purposes. There were many vermin-killers now on the market which consisted very largely of strychnine; some of them were most deadly poisons, and ought not to be sold except under proper restriction. The amendment, if it were accepted, would, I imagine, cover all veterinary medicines, which would, of course, be sold for agricultural purposes. The Government cannot take the responsibility of fathering an Act of Parliament which would give so wide a scope as this to the comparatively free sale of poisons. The clause as it stands is based on the very strong recommendation of a very strong Departmental Committee, which was appointed by the late Government in 1901, which had Sir Herbert Maxwell as its Chairman, and which was an expert body of the highest authority. That Committee heard a great deal of evidence from witnesses representing every interest. They held a prolonged inquiry, and presented their report two years later. That report recommended that there should be facilities given to agriculturists to obtain what they wanted, but it limited the poisonous substances to those specified in Clause 2. This Committee should be very chary of departing from the recommendations of the expert Departmental Committee. A Joint Committee of the two Houses has sat this year and considered this Bill. Representations were made to enlarge the scope of Clause 2, but the Committee did not accept them, and it reported the Bill practically in the form in which it now stands. The Board of Agriculture has been consulted, and it regards the clause as satisfactory in its present form. When all these facts are taken into consideration, I hope the Committee will not accept the request

to extend this clause. There is a second consideration—the position of a chemist has to be considered. The chemist at the present time has a statutory monopoly of the sale of all articles containing scheduled poisons. The Pharmaceutical Society say it is unfair and unjust that this clause having been agreed to, now to propose to expand the scope and include a number of other articles not originally included. As a protest against the noble Lord and his friends, hon. members had put down a notice to omit the clause. I hope the amendment will not be pressed. The only result will be to arouse controversy on the clause and prolong the debate to-day from the other standpoint and on the report stage. I am anxious that there should be full facilities for agriculturists and horticulturists to sell these articles without inconvenience. But if the noble lord asks for too much he may lose everything, and I cannot then guarantee that the Bill will reach the Statute-book this year.

The Earl of Ronaldshay said he had been much impressed by the arguments of the right hon. gentleman in regard to the latter part of the proposed amendment in regard to including the words “for agricultural and horticultural purposes.” If they put the words in, it would probably increase the scope of the clause far beyond the intention of the framers. He was not inclined to press that part of the amendment, although there was something to be said for the amendment as a whole. Let them take the case of shepherds. Would it be possible for them to obtain from storekeepers remedies such as carbolic acid, which were used in the case of foot-rot?

Mr. Herbert Samuel: There is no restriction upon them.

The Earl of Ronaldshay said that very largely removed his objection. The right hon. gentleman said that if strychnine were included it would increase the danger, but he did not think that strychnine was any more dangerous than arsenic. He did not see why they should give preference to certain of the agricultural and horticultural community over another portion of the community.

Mr. A. Cross asked if carbolic acid was scheduled.

Mr. Samuel replied by calling attention to Part 2 of the Schedule, which included carbolic acid. Carbolic acid was exempted from all restrictions.

Mr. Alex. Cross said that carbolic acid was one of the most deadly poisons, and more deaths took place by misadventure or deliberately by its means than from any other sources. He wanted to know why it was exempted. The Government, he recognised, were in a position of great difficulty, and he did not think they appreciated the point underlying this. They were all poisons—every one of them—and it did not matter one straw who sold them. The risk lay in the hands in which those poisons were after they had been sold. What happened to them when they got to the farmhouse? They wanted protection against the poison so long as it lay about. It did not matter who sold it, but what happened to it when it was distributed among the shops. The whole system of harassing and restrictions was blown up. They should have free trade in these articles, and should endeavour to prevent mischievous results accruing from these poisons after they had passed beyond the control of the vendor. He asked whether in 1908 they were going to repeat the performance of 1868, when certain poisons were scheduled, and they gave over to one trade the special business of selling poisons. Parliament of that day had no notion of the developments that were likely to take place. The Privy Council was an admirable body, but by its constitution it was not particularly qualified to deal with this matter. He would hardly go to that body, for instance, if he had to deal with the future developments of the trade. He hoped the noble Lord would adhere to his amendment, which imposed restrictions which were reasonable and necessary, and which formed a true protection to the public in regard to the sale of these articles. He trusted that the Pharmaceutical Society would not think him personal in what he was going to say, but it really was never intended that they should sell sheep-dips and insecticides, weed-killers, sprays, and the like. They knew nothing about it. By an accident they got the privilege some years ago, and they intended to stick to it. He supported the amendment of the noble lord.

Mr. Herbert Samuel said the last speaker had declared that he was not prepared to trust the Privy Council with the duty of adapting this clause to the business of the trade,

and that he would not like to see power placed in the hands of that body to enable them to add new substances. The hon. member was himself a member of the Departmental Committee which sat in 1901, and he represented the wholesale trade, and presented a minority report. In this he stated that the Privy Council was in the possession of the best information and had the necessary qualified staff, and he recommended that an Act of Parliament should be obtained to place the full power of renewing and controlling poisonous substances in their hands, and so settle the matter on a permanent basis. (Loud laughter.)

The question was then put, and the words added to the Bill.

The Earl of Ronaldshay, in Clause 2, page 1, after “killers,” moved to insert “nor in the case of medical preparations containing any of the poisons from time to time comprised in Part II. of Schedule A to the Pharmacy Act, 1868, provided that such preparations be sold in closed wrappers bearing in legible characters the name of a pharmaceutical chemist or of a chemist and druggist registered under the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as a compounder of the preparation.” He wanted to know why the advantages conferred by the Bill should not be conferred upon all. The effect of allowing the storesman and grocer to sell these sheep-dips was to confer a benefit on the agriculturist in scattered parts of the country, where there were no chemists at their doors, and where such preparations were necessary for the carrying on of the industry. The same argument applied in these scattered villages in regard to the more simple remedies. The amendment would enable grocers and warehousemen and so on to sell proprietary medicines, and as a safeguard against the privilege being abused they were only allowed to sell on condition that they were sold in closed wrappers bearing in legible characters the name of a pharmaceutical chemist or of a chemist and druggist registered under the Act of 1868 as a compounder of the preparation. It would enable people in distant parts of the country—in the dales of Yorkshire, for instance—and other parts of the country to obtain these simple remedies without having to travel long distances to town to reach a place where they could be obtained. The amendment might upset the equilibrium of the compromise which he understood had been arrived at, but he would like some information upon that point.

Mr. Herbert Samuel remarked that such a proposal would be strongly controverted, and give rise to much discussion. That was the least of the objections to it. The object of the noble Lord was to encourage the sale of certain poisons so long as they were made up as patent medicines. But the term “patent medicine” was an entire misnomer. These medicines were not patented at all, but it was a survival of the past, when certain medicines were patented and had certain privileges under the Pharmaceutical Act. They should really be called “proprietary medicines,” as they were not protected under the Patent Acts. It appeared that if the noble Lord could not get them sold for parasites he wanted them, in his passion for poisons—(laughter)—sold for persons—(renewed laughter)—and he did not think the Committee would desire to encourage the already enormously excessive sale of drugs for common use. Their population suffered considerably at the present time from the evils of excessive drug-taking, and if people would only submit in silence to the pains which Nature intended them to have—(laughter) after eating and drinking too much—(renewed laughter)—and not have recourse to various drugs and tabloids, we should be a better nation. (Laughter.) He was unwilling to do anything to encourage still further the sale of these medicines, most of which were deleterious. The noble Lord's proposal was obviously unacceptable, for the matter had been carefully considered by the Privy Council and the Home Office, and they had come definitely to the conclusion that such a proposal was greatly opposed to the public interests. He trusted the Committee would not accept it.

The Earl of Ronaldshay said he was not himself very fond of the amendment—(laughter)—and he would withdraw it, with the permission of the Committee.

Mr. Herbert Samuel said the harm done by a single chemist with a single shop was not to be compared with the harm done by his being allowed to spread his ramifications over the whole country, and poison not only his own

customers, but everyone else. (Laughter.) If a grocer opened a shop and sold across the counter an article containing poison and he was not qualified to sell such poison, he would, of course, be liable.

Mr. Alex. Cross, again rising, was understood to say that the Under-Secretary would be wise if he were to stop the sale of poisons altogether.

Mr. Richards (to a point of order) asked if the hon. member was in order in discussing the amendment of the withdrawal of which notice had already been given.

The Chairman said the amendment could only be withdrawn by leave of the Committee. He hoped the hon. member (Mr. Cross) would not be too long in his remarks.

Mr. Cross (continuing) asked whether the stricture under which they were going to vote was a fair one.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Captain Craig moved an amendment providing that regulations should be drawn up to prevent the sale of poisonous substances at the same counter at which food was sold. He said it would not satisfy him to leave a matter of that importance entirely in the hands of the local authority or entirely to an Order in Council. The intention of the Committee was that the sale of poisonous substances in a small shop should not be allowed to be attended with the slightest risk to human life through the same counter being used for the sale of food. The only argument which would be brought forward against the amendment was that it would necessitate slight structural alterations in some shops. Clause 2 was the only part of the Bill that applied to Ireland, and it was in regard to Ireland that this matter was serious. They would have small grocers' shops selling these poisonous articles. He did not oppose that, but he did think every precaution should be taken to ensure safety.

Mr. Herbert Samuel said he certainly thought that there was substance in the matter which the hon. member had brought forward. It would be dangerous to allow the sale of poison and the sale of food at the same counter. The question to be decided was what forms the regulations should take. A large number of regulations had to be made to safeguard the public interest in order that no danger might occur, and the Government had provided in the Bill in Clause 2 that persons who sold poisons must in the first place be licensed by the local authority, and must in the second place conform to any regulations that might be made in regard to the sale of poison. Sub-section 3 provided that an Order in Council should make the regulations. He would give a definite undertaking that the regulation which the hon. member had asked for in his amendment should be included in that Order in Council. It was not advisable to deal with one detail in the Act while dealing with others by Order in Council.

Captain Craig withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Herbert Samuel said that on the second-reading debate it had been pointed out the Bill gave excessive power to the Privy Council to enable it to specify by Order in Council the local authorities by whom the licences should be granted. It was said that that was a matter which ought to be dealt with by Parliament, and the local authorities ought to be specified in the Bill. It had seemed to him that there was considerable force in that argument, and he had agreed to insert an amendment specifying the local authorities, which read as follows: Clause 2, page two, line eighteen, leave out from "section," to "and," in line twenty. Clause 2, page two, line twenty-nine, at end, insert: (4) The local authority for the purposes of this section shall, as respects the area of any municipal borough in England having a population of more than ten thousand according to the last published census for the time being be the council of that borough, and as respects the area of any Royal, Parliamentary, or police burgh in Scotland shall be the Town Council, and as respects any other place shall be the Council of the county.

Clause 2 as amended was added to the Bill.

CLAUSE 3.

Mr. Samuel moved the following amendment, which, he said, carried out the compromise which had been arranged by the various bodies concerned, and which he had fully explained on the second-reading debate: Clause 3, page three, line eighteen, leave out from "druggist" to end of line twenty-three, and insert: (a) if the business of the

body corporate, firm, or partnership, so far as it relates to the keeping, retailing, and dispensing of poisons, is under the control and management of a superintendent who is a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, whose name has been forwarded to the registrar appointed under the Pharmacy Act, 1852, to be entered by him in a register to be kept for that purpose, and who does not act at the same time in a similar capacity for any other body corporate, firm, or partnership; and (b) if in every premises where such business as aforesaid is carried on, and is not personally conducted by the superintendent, such business is *bonâ fide* conducted under the direction of the superintendent by a manager or assistant who is a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, and whose certificate of qualification is conspicuously exhibited in the shop or other place in which he so conducts the business. Clause 3, page three, line twenty-eight, leave out "one at least" and insert "the superintendent is a member." Clause 3, page three, line twenty-nine, leave out "one at least of the members." Clause 3, page three, line thirty, leave out from "be" to end of line thirty-three. Clause 3, page three, line thirty-four, after "aforesaid" insert "Section 12 of the Pharmacy Act, 1852, and."

Mr. Snowden asked whether the title pharmacist, pharmaceutical chemist, and pharmacist could be used by any save qualified chemists.

Mr. Samuel said the only prohibitive title under the Bill were the three which had been mentioned. A company might use any title it chose except those three.

Mr. Snowden asked if a co-operative body could not use the word pharmacist.

Mr. Samuel said "No," not even if they had a qualified man in charge could a company use that title.

Mr. Vivian asked whether a co-operative society could use the description drug-stores, chemist stores, or pharmaceutical department, though they had not a qualified man on the board.

Mr. Samuel said that a co-operative society which had not a qualified person on its board, but had a qualified man in charge, could call itself a drug-stores or chemist stores. A long list of names had been provided by the Pharmaceutical Society which could be used by a co-operative stores.

Mr. A. Cross thought that it was a matter they should be perfectly clear about. The Bill ought to give them security, and they ought not to be left to the Pharmaceutical Society. It was a wrong position to take up to allow the Pharmaceutical Society, which was itself an interested party, to prosecute in cases, and they must be sure that no opening was left for the Pharmaceutical Society to change its policy and prosecute people for using these titles.

The amendment was carried.

On the question that Clause 3 as amended should stand part of the Bill, Captain Craig asked whether any alteration had been made with regard to the powers of chemists. Would limited companies be able to grant certificates to their assistants?

Mr. Samuel said the point raised was a purely Irish point, and the clause did not apply to Ireland. The Irish Pharmacy Acts were entirely different from those of England. There had been representation that the clause should be made to apply to Ireland, but the Attorney-General for Ireland himself had had to tell the Irish Pharmaceutical Society that unless they could come to an agreement between the various parties concerned, as had been done in England, nothing could be done on that point. As an agreement had not been arrived at, the Government at so late a period in the Session could not extend the clause to Ireland. If an agreement is arrived at, it can be carried out by another Bill.

The clause was added to the Bill.

CLAUSE 4.

Sir John Batty Tuke moved an amendment to the section of Clause 4 dealing with the registration of chemists, his object being to secure the omission of the words "or of qualified military dispensers." He said it was not fair that men who had been through two months' study should be placed on the same terms as men who had studied three years.

Mr. Samuel pointed out that a man must produce evidence to satisfy the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society that he was a person of sufficient skill and knowledge to be registered by the Society. A man would have to show

that he had sufficient skill and knowledge before he could be registered.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

CLAUSE 5.

Mr. Idris moved an amendment to Clause 5, leaving out the word "poison" in line nineteen and inserting the word "poisonous."

Mr. Samuel accepted the amendment, which was carried.

CLAUSE 6.

The Attorney-General for Ireland moved a new clause, that upon the death of any person registered under the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) (1875) Amendment Act, 1890, as a chemist and druggist or registered druggist, and actually in business at the time of his death, it shall be lawful for any executor, administrator, or trustee of his estate to continue such business if, and so long only, as such business is *bona fide* conducted by an assistant being a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or licentiate apothecary, or duly registered chemist and druggist, or duly registered druggist. He thought the object of the clause was a reasonable one. It would enable the widow or representative of a deceased chemist or druggist to carry on the business, provided a qualified man was in charge. This privilege was already enjoyed by the more highly qualified men, and it was merely intended to extend it to chemists and druggists.

The new clause was carried.

THE SCHEDULE.

Mr. Samuel moved an amendment to the Schedule. It had been represented to the Privy Council that while belladonna was a dangerous poison, belladonna-plasters need not be scheduled. They contained very little poison, and what there was would be difficult to extract.

The amendment was agreed to, and the Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Bill was ordered to be reported to the House.

OPIUM EXPORTS.

In the House of Commons on December 9, Mr. T. R. Buchanan informed Mr. H. Leake that the India Office had no official or other list of the firms exporting opium from Bombay to Chinese ports and the port of Hong-Kong.

ANÆSTHETICS.

Mr. H. Gladstone replied to two questions by Dr. G. J. Cooper last week in regard to deaths occurring under anæsthetics, chiefly in regard to the General Medical Council's attitude on the matter (see *C. & D. Dec. 5, p. 865*). We have ascertained that Dr. Cooper is of opinion that any inquiry which may be instituted into the causes of the deaths should take the form of a commission of scientific experts appointed under the auspices of the Royal Society. A Royal Commission is very undesirable, and a commission of medical men pure and simple is not wanted. It will be necessary, of course, that the Royal Society should receive a grant from the Government for the purposes of the investigation. Dr. Cooper's contention is that in all cases where an anæsthetic is administered a proper record should be kept of the condition of the patient operated upon, of the amount of chloroform or other anæsthetic administered, and of the precise method in which it is given.

Mr. T. A. Bramsdon, M.P., the Coroner for Portsmouth, will, we are informed, ask the Home Secretary in the House of Commons on Monday next, whether his attention has been called to three recent cases of deaths under anæsthetics occurring at Ryde, London, and Southampton; whether he has yet received the contemplated reply from the President of the General Medical Council to the communication addressed to him, and the nature of such reply; and whether, having regard to the number of deaths that are constantly occurring in all parts of the country of persons while under the influence of anæsthetics, it was not, in his opinion, absolutely necessary that a Royal Commission should forthwith be appointed or some other form of inquiry.

Recent Wills.

Mr. WILLIAM SMART, Selsdon Road, Wanstead, Essex, and of 27 Aldgate, London, E.C., chemist, who died on June 24, aged sixty-eight, left estate valued at 1,228*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* gross, with net personalty 1,090*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

Mr. DAVID KENNEDY, Hawick, N.B., and Ryecroft, Burton, Westmoreland, chemist and druggist, formerly in business in Dunfermline, who died on June 9, aged sixty eight, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at 30,795*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* Letters of administration of his property have been granted to his son, Mr. Robert Kerr Kennedy, chemist and druggist, Hawick.

Mr. JONATHAN MASON, of Fernleigh Seaton, near Workington, Cumberland, chemist and druggist, formerly in partnership with his brother at 4 Pow Street, who died on August 26, aged fifty-eight, left estate valued at 1,928*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* gross, with net personalty 1,078*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* Probate of his will has been granted to his brother, Mr. Joseph Robert Mason, Workington, chemist, and his nephew, Mr. Daniel Johnston Mason, Workington, solicitor.

Mr. HENRY BRADDOCK BAGSHAW, Edward Street, Oldham, Lancs. formerly of 77 Werneth Hall Road, Oldham, chemist and druggist, who died on October 28, aged seventy-five, left estate valued at 7,588*l.* 13*s.* gross, of which the net personalty has been sworn at 3,002*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* Probate of his will dated March 27, 1889, with a codicil of January 25, 1904, has been granted to his widow, Mrs. Mary Bagshaw, and his sons, Mr. Harold Bagshaw, chemist, Edward Street, Oldham, and Mr. Wm. Bagshaw, solicitor, Utley, Keighley.

Mr. JAMES MORRIS RUCKER, Forest Lodge, West Hill, Putney, and late of Messrs. S. Rucker & Co., tea, sugar, spice, cinchona, and general Colonial brokers, of 12 Great Tower Street, London, E.C., who died on October 13, aged sixty-four, left estate of the gross value of 42,936*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, of which the net personalty has been sworn at 41,890*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* In addition to annuities to relatives, he left a life annuity of 150*l.* to his clerk Edward Gifford; an annuity of 100*l.* to his clerk Alfred Gifford, son of the above, and also to him a legacy of 100*l.* for keeping the accounts of his estate; and life annuities of 26*l.* each to Arthur Newnum and Henry George Heyne, lately clerks in his employ at 12 Great Tower Street, E.C.

ALDERMAN WILLIAM HALL JOWETT, F.C.S., of Arden Craig, Grassendale, Lancs, chemist, and druggist, of the firm of Messrs. Clayton & Jowett, Ltd., manufacturing chemists, of Concert Street and Fleet Street, Liverpool, an Alderman of the Liverpool City Council, and formerly in business in Blackburn, J.P. for Liverpool, Chairman of the Aighurth polling district of the Widnes Division, who died on September 3, aged forty-nine, left estate of the gross value of 20,269*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, of which the net personalty has been sworn at 18,491*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* Probate of his will, dated February 10, 1906, has been granted to Mr. Samuel Crossley, J.P., Blackburn, and Mr. Thomas Armistead Ward, wholesale chemist and druggist, Blackburn, to each of whom for the executorship he left 10 guineas. The testator left his residence and household effects to his wife, 50*l.* to his brother John Edmund Jowett, 50*l.* each on attaining majority to his godsons William Robson and William Leslie Forrest, 25*l.* to Dorothy Catherine Clayton, 25*l.* and a life annuity of 52*l.* to his brother Fnhraim Hall Jowett, a life annuity of 104*l.* to his sister Elizabeth Robertson, and on her decease 300*l.* to each of her children, a life annuity of 80*l.* to his sister Annie Jowett, 50*l.* to his coachman Edward Thorley, and the residue of his property to his wife absolutely.

Mr. STANDEN PAINE, of "Devisdale," Bowdon, Cheshire, and of Manchester, pharmaceutical chemist, chairman and managing director of Benger's Food, Ltd., who died on October 4, aged seventy-three, left estate of the gross value of 468,486*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, of which the net personalty has been sworn at 465,933*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* Probate of his will, dated January 31, 1901, has been granted to his widow, Mrs. Katharine Anne Paine, his son Mr. Chas. Standen Paine, of Sutton, Market Drayton, Salop, and Mr. John I. Worthington, solicitor, Moseley Street, Manchester. In addition to bequests to relatives, testator bequeathed 100*l.* to Mr. Alfred Henry Barlow and 100*l.* to Mr. Alfred Barry Lowndes. During the life of his wife he left an annuity of 300*l.* to his three sisters during spinsterhood jointly, with remainder to the surviving spinster of them during spinsterhood, an annuity of 300*l.* to his son Chas. Standen Paine, and an annuity of 200*l.* in each of his other children, but, as regards his daughters, during spinsterhood only. The residue of his property he left to his wife during widowhood, or, in the event of her remarriage, a life interest in one-half thereof, and the ultimate residue of his property to his children in equal shares, the shares of his daughters being retained upon trust for their benefit.

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE SECOND READING ON DECEMBER 3.

AS already announced in the *C. & D.* of last week, the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill came up quite unexpectedly for second reading in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon, December 3, this being due to the fact that the Government were not in a position to proceed further at the moment with the Education Bill, which was dropped on the following day. The intimation on the part of the Prime Minister that the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill would take the place of the larger—though not more important—measure elicited some laughter from a crowded House, which had come down specially on a Friday afternoon—a most unusual occurrence—to ascertain at first hand the intentions of the Ministry in regard to one of the principal measures of the Session. After the Clerk at the table had called on “Poisons and Pharmacy Bill—second reading,” there was a general exodus from all parts of the Chamber, and the discussion of the measure was left in the hands of a few members—a mere handful—among whom the most conspicuous, perhaps, were Mr. Herbert Samuel, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, who has greatly enhanced his reputation by the skilful manner in which he piloted the Children Bill and, later on, to a large extent the Licensing Bill through the House of Commons. By the side of the Under-Secretary sat Mr. Herbert Gladstone, but the right hon. gentleman took no part in the discussion, leaving the conduct of the debate to his principal lieutenant. Among others present in the Chamber were Mr. T. H. W. Idris, the Earl of Ronaldshay, Lord Balcarras, Sir F. Banbury, Mr. Vivian, Mr. F. E. Smith, Mr. H. W. Forster, Mr. John Dillon, Mr. R. W. Winfrey, Mr. B. S. Straus, Mr. A. P. Hedges, Sir Henry Craik, Viscount Helmsley, Mr. G. L. Courthope, Mr. J. D. Rees, Mr. M. H. Hicks-Beach, and others, some of whom, as is well known, have taken a prominent part in the negotiations which have only rendered the appearance of the Bill in the House of Commons at this stage of the Session at all possible. Mr. Alexander Cross was in the building, but owing to the suddenness with which the Bill came on was unaware that it was engaging the attention of the House.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Herbert Samuel, Yorkshire, Cleveland), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it was of purely Departmental importance. If this subject came before the House for the first time, or if it raised any question of controversy, then some inconvenience might be caused by this sudden change of scene, but he would explain the nature of the Bill, trusting that the House would consider its proposals. This Bill had three purposes. Clause 1 brought up to date the schedule of poisons which was attached to the Pharmacy Act of 1868, in the light of later knowledge of medical and pharmaceutical science which had been acquired in the last forty years. Clause 2 would, he thought, be warmly welcomed by agricultural members, many of whom he saw in their places. It dealt with the supply of sheep-dips and weed-killers and preparations for the destruction of insects which contained poisonous materials, and which at the present time technically were under the provisions of the ordinary law. Much inconvenience was caused by the restrictions on the sale of these commodities by persons who were chemists, and agriculturists had long desired that some other facilities should be given for obtaining these articles. In fact, the present law could not be enforced, as these articles were largely sold by persons who were not qualified under the Poisons Act. Clause 2 provided that where the existing facilities were insufficient—it was not intended to compete with the chemists where they could sell these articles—the local authorities might license traders, other than registered chemists, to sell these articles subject to regulations which were to be put in the Bill. This proposal followed the recommendation of a very strong Departmental Committee which sat on this subject in 1901, and which was appointed by the late Government, and was unanimous in recommending the change of the law embodied

in the Bill. With regard to these provisions, there was little difficulty, and he imagined that there could be no objection. There were also a few other minor matters embodied in the later clauses. But the third provision of this Bill raised a point which had in the past given rise to some considerable controversy. It was found to be necessary that companies which conducted the business of drug-stores should be liable for offences against the Pharmacy Act committed by their agents. That was a proper change of the law which drug-stores themselves conceded to be necessary. It arose out of a legal decision that where an unqualified person was selling poisons in a shop belonging to a company which was a drug-store company that unqualified person was alone to be punished, and the company could not be punished because it was not a chemist under the meaning of the Pharmacy Act. When, however, it was proposed to amend the law and make the drug-store companies liable, a keen controversy at once arose between the chemists and the drug-stores, not on that particular point, but on another one—viz., whether or not drug-stores should be allowed to use the title of chemists. On the one hand, the qualified chemist said that he had to undergo a prolonged training, that he had to pay for an expensive education, and that he ought to have a monopoly of this business of dispensing medicine. On the other hand, friends of the drug-stores pointed out that they for many years past had been carrying on their business without interference by the law, that they supplied a popular need and were now established, and that to deprive them of the title would practically destroy their business. On this point a keen controversy arose. There was a babel of tongues. The letter-boxes of members of Parliament were filled with controversial pamphlets, and the advertisement-columns of the newspapers were filled with references to the subject. When he first took up this subject, as representing the Privy Council Office, in whose sphere the matter rested, he was told by both parties that there was only one point on which they were in agreement, and that was that any agreement between them was impossible. However, fortunately, now the case wore a different aspect. The Bill was introduced this year in the House of Lords in a non-controversial form, leaving open this vexed question in dispute between these two important trading interests. The Bill was referred to a Joint Committee of the two Houses, who heard evidence from both sides, and who were thoroughly representative. This Committee reported the Bill to the House of Lords very closely in the form in which it now stood. Since that time there had been prolonged negotiations with the organised chemists, with the representatives of the drug-stores, and with the representatives of the co-operative societies, and to-day he was happy to be in a position to state that all three parties were reconciled with one another—that they all accepted the Bill in the form in which it was now before the House, subject to some small amendments on detail of a very technical character, which it would be his duty to move in Committee. Under these circumstances, as this long controversy was now at an end, he trusted this House would consider this a favourable moment to assent to the second reading of this Bill. He begged to move.

Sir F. Banbury (City of London) said he had listened with interest to the statement of the right hon. gentleman, because he remembered the controversies to which he alluded, which took place at the time of the last election. He recollected that he had a very long interview with chemists in his then constituency, and he came to the conclusion that while something could be said on their side of the question there was a good deal to be said on the other. There did not appear to him to be the slightest hope of any agreement being arrived at between the two contending parties, but now he understood that an agreement had been come to. He had, however, two communications from different people interested in this Bill, and he would like to ask the Under-Secretary a few questions in regard to them. The first communication he had was from the Grocers' Association in

London. They objected to certain provisions of the Bill, and regretted that grocers should be allowed to sell poisonous substances, provided they were wrapped in a label which bore the name of a certified chemist, and they asked him to move an amendment to this effect when the Bill got into Committee. This was an extremely technical Bill, and he replied that he did not think that anyone who was not an expert in this question should move an amendment dealing with such an important subject as the sale of poisons. He did not know whether the Grocers' Association was in the right or in the wrong, but what he wanted to ask the Under-Secretary was whether, in view of the fact that the sale of poisons was a very important matter to safeguard, there was any foundation for the complaint of the Grocers' Association, whether he had looked into the matter and whether any alteration should be made in the Bill. Then he had an appeal from the chemists in his constituency, in which they said that at last this matter had been agreed to, subject to an amendment which had to be produced by the right hon. gentleman the Under-Secretary. He thought before they passed the second reading of this Bill, they ought to have some indication of what this amendment was, because it seemed to him that this Bill at the moment was not an agreed one, but that it rather resembled the Education Bill, which was brought in as an agreed measure, but when they got into Committee they found that it was the reverse. This, therefore, was not an agreed Bill; that was to say, the chemists did not agree except on the understanding that the right hon. gentleman would introduce the amendment which would suit their aims and objects. He did not wish to say a word about the amendment, he did not know what it was, but they ought to know. It must not be forgotten that no doubt there was considerable grievance on the part of the chemists, and while he quite agreed that a company could not be prosecuted for committing any offence committed by its servants, and that commonly the servants would be prosecuted, and that that wanted altering, it seemed to him that nothing should be done which should prevent large chemist companies continuing a business which they had carried on for a considerable time. They had been a very great boon to the poorer classes on account of the high prices charged by chemists, whereas they could now go to places like Boots' Stores and get drugs at prices much more reasonable. While they ought to safeguard the rights of the chemists, they ought not to give them a monopoly which would allow them to charge excessive prices. He did not wish to offer any opposition to the Bill, and he was glad that the right hon. gentleman had been able to secure an agreement on this question. He hoped the Home Secretary, who had not spoken, would inform them what was the amendment which it was proposed to move, so that before they went to a second reading they might have some knowledge of what they were assenting to.

Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton) said he only desired to add an observation to what had been said by his hon. friend, and the Under-Secretary would acknowledge that he was intervening in this debate with no desire to consume the time of this House, because a year ago he waited upon the right hon. gentleman, as a member of a deputation which called attention to the undoubted grievance which was then felt by chemists. He only rose to ask how far the chemists the hon. gentleman had mentioned could be relied on. He had heard some of the chemists in his constituency expressing a little doubt as to the amendment it was contemplated to introduce in this Bill. He could not pretend that he was in entire agreement with what had fallen from his hon. friend as to the quarrel between the chemists and the corporate body, but he would venture to say, in qualification of what had fallen from his hon. friend, chemists who had undergone a highly specialised education in order to fit themselves for their occupation, felt it a very great grievance that they were not to enjoy the same status as medical and legal practitioners. The Government should indicate in a general way what the nature of the amendment which it was proposed to put into the Bill would be, so that the House in giving it a second reading, should not be in the dark, but be able to feel, having the advantage of the assurance of the Under-Secretary, that they were not failing in carrying out the pledges they had given to their constituents.

Mr. Winfrey (Norfolk, S.W.) said as the member placed in charge of the Bill of the Pharmaceutical Society, he

desired to say the negotiations which had taken place with regard to the Government Bill and with reference to this clause dealing with chemists was now considered quite satisfactory to the Pharmaceutical Society. The clause which it was proposed to introduce had been placed before the largest meeting of the Society that had ever taken place, and they expressed themselves as being quite satisfied.

Mr. F. E. Smith asked if the amendment might be read.

Mr. Herbert Samuel said, in response to the hon. gentleman, he would read the clause as it would appear when amended. The point was an extremely technical one, and not easy to follow. [Mr. Samuel here read the clause.] The effect of it was that a drug-store must have a duly qualified chemist in charge of the actual dispensing of the medicines. That was the present law, and would be continued; but in addition to that the drug-store must also have a superintendent, who managed the poisons department of the company. If the company had got only one shop, the superintendent and the dispenser would be one and the same person, but if the drug company had a number of shops, it must have a duly qualified chemist as dispenser in each shop to dispense the medicines, and must have a general manager of the poisons department who was a qualified chemist. The drug companies and chemists agreed to that as a reasonable solution of the whole question. The title pharmacist was limited to registered chemists and druggists, but apart from that the drug-stores which conformed to all the conditions could still retain the title chemist and druggist.

Viscount Helmsley asked for a little more information on one or two points. Clause 2 had not been explained very adequately. The point he was anxious to safeguard was that no undue difficulty should be put in the way of agriculturists and horticulturists obtaining weed-killers and sheep-dips, or whatever might be required for their purposes. It was also essential that no onerous conditions should be put upon those who sold these things. At present these articles could be sold by anybody without a licence. This clause went further than was necessary in restricting the sale of these articles. Vendors had to get a licence from the local authority, and had to conform to any regulations which the local authority made. The Bill said the local authority shall have regard in granting a licence to the reasonable requirements of the public. He did not think that was quite a fair way of putting it. The local authority might say, "One very good sheep-dip was being sold by So-and-So, therefore we will not give a licence to somebody else to sell another dip," which, in the opinion of some qualified to judge, might be just as advantageous. He did not think it should be in the power of a local authority to withhold a licence for such a reason as that. He thought a licence ought to be given whenever it was applied for. With regard to Clause 3, it was very satisfactory to hear that the quarrels between the retail chemists and the drug-stores had been compromised. The compromise seemed very fair all round. With regard to Clause 5, the Home Secretary would remember that he addressed a question to him recently with reference to the sale of vitriol, and the right hon. gentleman assured him that the control of the sale of vitriol was a point that was going to be carefully safeguarded in this Bill. Subsection (2) did undoubtedly deal with the sale of vitriol, but at the same time he did not think that labelling it poison and taking the name of the purchaser would be sufficient to make the procuring of vitriol more difficult than it was at present. It would be of considerable advantage if the hon. member would inform them what the regulations were likely to be under the proposed Order in Council. Outrages of vitriol-throwing had been far too common of late, and he was sure that the House would be willing to adopt any method which was considered advisable to make the purchase of this substance as difficult as possible. If the answer of the hon. member were satisfactory on this point, he would not oppose the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs) said this Bill had come on so suddenly that he had not had time to look up his papers dealing with two different interests the representatives of which had asked him to watch the Bill and see that certain guarantees, if possible, were given before it was passed. He was not opposing the second reading. Among the interests which were being touched by the Bill

were those of the weed-killer and sheep-dip seller. These preparations were chiefly sold by ironmongers, and in his own district there was some feeling between the chemists and ironmongers in regard to this matter. In boroughs of the class which he represented there was a large rural area together with an urban area, and there was an intimate connection between the surrounding country and the town. There was keen competition between the ironmongers and the chemists, and he should like to know from the Under-Secretary whether, under the Bill, the sale of weed-killers and sheep-dips by ironmongers would be stopped. He was inclined to think that would be a rather harsh measure which would be resented by agriculturists near country towns. He practically agreed with his noble friend opposite on this matter, and he would be greatly obliged if the Under-Secretary would deal with the question he had put.

Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) said it was very important that agriculturists throughout the country should not be put to any kind of inconvenience in regard to obtaining weed-killers, sheep-dips, and similar preparations which they required. What would be the difference between the law as it now existed and what it would be made by Clause 2 in regard to the ordinary agriculturist? He was not a chemical expert, but he ventured to suggest that there were certain sheep-dips and weed-killers which contained substances other than "arsenic, tobacco, or the alkaloids of tobacco" mentioned in the clause, though he saw the provisions in the same clause that "His Majesty may by Order in Council amend this provision by adding thereto or removing therefrom any poisonous substance." That seemed to him to be an unnecessary and possibly harsh restriction. Take his own experience. He had used a substance, which was composed of some poison or other—he did not know what it was—to rub on the backs of his cattle. This had the effect of preventing the warble-fly settling upon them, thus giving the animals relief and preventing them from galloping about the field to escape the insect. It would be an unnecessarily harsh restriction if a farmer could not purchase the substance except at the place of a registered chemist. As he read Clause 2 he would not be able to purchase it elsewhere unless an Order in Council was obtained. That Order in Council, he presumed, would go to the county council, from the county council to the district council, and from the district council to the person who desired to sell the particular preparation. That was a very lengthy process, and it was hardly necessary to place a restriction of that kind in the Bill. He should like the Under-Secretary to tell them what would be the actual effect of this clause upon the agriculturists of the country; whether it would make any serious difference in their opportunities to purchase these necessary articles containing poisonous substances which every farmer had to use at some period of the year, and whether he could not see his way to removing or altering subsection (1) of Clause 2, by making it a little more feasible for agriculturists to obtain these preparations. Another point which he desired to raise was with reference to subsection (3) of Clause 3. He understood that chemists' companies were to be registered as chemists and druggists, and not as pharmacists, and that this had been agreed upon by all parties concerned, and therefore no objection was made to that provision.

Mr. Herbert Samuel was understood to indicate assent.

Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne) said they were told that this was an agreed Bill, but there was a clause in it the inclusion of which in the agreement he could not understand. He referred to subsection (4) of Clause 3, which insisted that before a business carried on by a company could be described as a chemists' business there must be one director of the concern who was a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist. Take the position of Whiteley's Stores, or the Army and Navy Stores, or any other of those great organised businesses, each with a chemist and druggist department. How was one man, who had received a University education perhaps, and had become a qualified chemist, to take part in the administration of those huge businesses? He thought such a provision ought not to be forced on any concern. By all means provide further protection for the public, but in the carrying-out of an organised business it was no part of the duty of that House that such a condition should be inflicted upon these great business undertakings. They had some knowledge of the attitude sometimes taken by

the Pharmaceutical Society, who caused to be inflicted on those who sold anything which came under the Pharmacy Acts a fine of 5*l.* or 10*l.* There was no appeal against that. A person was at once brought up to the County Court. He had even known cases in which a fine had been inflicted though the article sold was not poisonous. Articles which usually contained poisons, in order that they might be sold by co-operative societies and stores had the poisons removed from them; but many people who carried on stores and had sold these preparations with the poisons removed had been unjustly fined because there could be no appeal, and the fines were collected by the County Court. He himself had considerable doubt about giving these societies increased powers. Let them give the public authorities or the public inspectors all the assistance they could, but they ought not to give over to committees of chemists, or of any other body, the power to inflict penalties and administer the law of the country.

Lord Balcarras (Lancashire, Chorley) thought the remarks of the hon. gentleman who had just sat down were just. He understood that subsection (4) of Clause 3 was being modified, but he gathered that the change did not apply to the point raised by the hon. member below the gangway. To require that a qualified chemist should be placed on the board of the Army and Navy, Harrod's, Barker's, Boot's, or other companies' stores was to put upon them a very onerous obligation indeed.

Mr. Herbert Samuel: They are all agreed.

Lord Balcarras: Did the Under-Secretary say that the Army and Navy Stores had agreed to have a qualified chemist on their board because they had a chemist's department? They knew what compromises were in vague conversations, and how different they were when they came to be reduced to the precise language of the draftsman in a Bill. The chemist's department in these big businesses represented an infinitesimal fraction of those businesses, and it was very unfair to ask those big companies to bring on to their boards men who very likely would be perfectly useless on general commercial questions in order to qualify for the term "chemists," which he should say those companies were as much entitled to use as any great firm. That was a point which required consideration. The Under-Secretary had revolutionised Clause 3 by amendments proposed to subsection (4), but until those amendments were on the paper they could not know what their purport would be. There were two points to which he wished to advert. One was the effect of this proposal on the ordinary business man who sold these substances in the country districts; and, secondly, as to the extended powers which the Home Office was going to take upon its shoulders under this Bill. Everyone knew that in agricultural districts these poisons were now sold by the local "vet.," and the veterinary surgeon, though not always qualified to take that title, knew what these articles were. But he knew what the ordinary proportions were, and he dealt in articles which were as a rule made up for him by some respectable chemist in a neighbouring town, and he almost defied the Home Office to say that the scandals which had been caused in the last few years by the illicit use of poison could in the smallest percentage of cases be traced to these country veterinary officers. It was not with them that the scandal began, nor upon them that these severe measures should fall. The scandals began in the bogus urban chemist's shop. That was where poisons were improperly bought, and it was against them only that it was really necessary to invoke all these immense powers. As the Bill was drafted, the ordinary veterinary surgeon, who for years past had been in the habit of supplying sheep-dip to farmers, had to obtain a licence. He did not see why the local authority should be allowed to prevent this man from selling these poisons unless it could be shown—and it had not been shown—that it had been the cause of scandal in the past. His real objection to the way the Bill was drafted was that a general scheme was laid down by Parliament, and that actually within the four corners of the Bill the Government took to itself the right to abrogate all or any portions of the Bill. By subsection (3) of Clause 1 the Home Office was entitled to lay down the most minute conditions governing the trade of men who dealt in those poisonous substances.

Mr. Herbert Samuel: The Privy Council.

Lord Balcarras : But that is under the Home Office.

Mr. Herbert Samuel : Not at all.

Lord Balcarras said then it ought to be.

Mr. Herbert Samuel : The Home Office has never dealt with the question of poisons or medical questions. They have always been the business of the Privy Council.

Lord Balcarras said they had not the experts. The Home Office was the Department dealing with explosives. There were two items in Schedule 1 which were material ingredients of the most dangerous explosives in the world. He was not going to attack the Home Office. He was going to criticise the growing action of this Government of taking the right in its Bills to abrogate what Parliament had settled. He thought the Home Office could make regulations of a far-reaching character. Apparently he was wrong, and it was not the Home Office but the Privy Council, but it made very little difference. Just consider the six sub-heads on which regulations were going to be made, first as to the granting of licences and the selection of authorities which had that duty; then the duration, renewal, revocation, suspension, extension, and reduction of such licences. That seemed to insure that a poor man who had got his licence was to have no peace. It said all kinds of regulations might be made about keeping, inspecting, and copying the register of licences, and the keeping, transporting, and selling of poisonous substances. That really was giving a Government Department too much latitude. He was not opposed to making proper regulations for dealing with these poisonous substances, but he thought a Government Department at Whitehall, in drawing up its regulations, was often apt to overlook the difficulties. A man living in the country might safely keep his poisonous substances in a manner which would be intolerable in London. He knew cases where local authorities had themselves kept substances of a highly dangerous character in a box by the side of the road for years, and no objection had ever been taken. It was known it was there, but it was not dangerous because it was in an out-of-the-way part of the country, and the material was concealed in a wood. Now they made a precise declaration which would apply to London just as much as to the wild lands of some country parish, and the regulations were bound to be harassing. The only safeguard that the public had was that the Order in Council was to be placed before Parliament, but what was the good of that? There was no protection in it. It was a purely nominal affair. Questions might be asked on it, but that was no check upon the Privy Council, which had not a representative in the House of Commons. But the Department also put restrictions in Clause 5 on the sale of certain mineral acids, which they said must have the word "poison" on the outside of the bottle, and the name of the person who sold it. That was a perfectly futile regulation. Everyone knew, who had been interested in the cases which had recently occurred, and which had been wholly urban, that where a man had been charged with having failed to mark "poison" outside, the label had got wet and had come off. They should deal with these matters in a much more specific manner, and insist that the bottle itself should be marked, and not a label stuck on which might come off in a moment. They had power to make new regulations. Clause 2 took special power at any time to revise or withdraw the regulations which might have been made, and there was a penalty of £l. He had received a good deal of correspondence with regard to the Bill, and a good many of his correspondents were unaware that an agreement had been arrived at. They viewed the Bill, if not with hostility certainly with some suspicion. If this Clause 3 had been agreed to, so much the better. It put a long and tiresome controversy out of the way. But he was quite sure the Under-Secretary ought to give adequate time before any further stage of the Bill was taken.

Mr. Idris (Flint Boroughs) said although very little was obtained by the chemists on the Joint Committee, a compromise had since been arrived at with everybody concerned as far as he could judge. The Joint Companies Association, the Co-operative Stores, the President of the Veterinary College, and John Barker & Co. strongly supported these restrictions. The regulations which might be made and the substances which might be put in and taken out of the Schedule by the Government Department were to some extent objectionable to him, and a good many of the

powers given under the Schedule were objectionable to him; but to some extent he found in other countries, such as France and Germany, Government Departments took on this duty and the work was done remarkably well. He had as an interested party several times had to make representations to the Privy Council, and he had come to the conclusion that business was done there remarkably well, and these regulations would certainly enable those who objected to make representations to the Government Department, and probably they could be modified if necessary in the public interest. The noble Lord had spoken of the licences applying in all towns, even in London. There were not many sheep in London. He believed they were intended to apply mainly to agricultural districts where farmers found it difficult to obtain these poisons readily. The inspection of the books of licence-holders was an absolute necessity for the public safety. In nearly all cases of poisoning by arsenic the poisoning went on until several members of a family had been killed before it was suspected. It was not until there had been a large number of deaths that the suspicion of neighbours was aroused and inquiries were made. In the country it was quite a common superstition among horse-keepers that arsenic gave horses a glossy coat. The present state of the law was simply chaos with regard to the sale of poisons. There was scarcely a check on anything, and the restrictions in this Bill were very much in the public interest. Some people were not satisfied with the measure—in fact, the chemists were not satisfied with it. The only thing in the Bill in favour of chemists was that in future they would be able to call themselves pharmacists. Many of the details would be best threshed out in Committee. He could assure the House from a close study of this question that the Bill contained nothing prejudicial to the public interest, while, on the other hand, it was very necessary for the protection of the public. He hoped the Bill would receive a sympathetic reception. One hon. member thought there ought to be a more stringent restriction on the sale of vitriol, but having regard to the many interests concerned he thought they had chosen the best compromise. They had given the makers of this agricultural product and the purchasers of it every possible facility, and they had protected the title of "chemist" to some extent.

Mr. Courthope asked the Government to make it quite clear that it was not intended by Clause 2 to make it more difficult but easier to obtain poisons necessary in agricultural pursuits, and he appealed to the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office to see that the Orders in Council were issued with the utmost despatch. It was, for instance, very important that fruit-growers should be able to get the materials for their spraying. Probably a great deal of the mixture used would be used this winter for winter spraying, and it was of the utmost importance that they should be able to obtain it before it was too late. He hoped also the Government would see their way to extend somewhat the exceptions to the Act, because there was a variety of substances which, although not of general use, were very valuable in certain isolated cases. There were one or two diseases with which fruit-growers had to contend in which it was almost necessary to use cyanides of different kinds. He hoped the right hon. gentleman would bear that in mind and consider whether it was not also possible to extend the list to certain well-recognised animal medicines, which one found, or ought to find, in every well-conducted stable. He did not think it ought to be necessary to go to a chemist to obtain those things. It was sometimes difficult to obtain what one wanted, and it was inconvenient always to have to go to a registered chemist. He hoped the right hon. gentleman would make this point quite clear, because the agriculturists of the country were very eager to have Clause 2 placed upon the Statute-book this year, and that he would see that no undue delay occurred before the Orders in Council were issued and the advantages of the clause obtained.

Mr. Annan Bryce (Inverness Burghs) suggested that in the exceptional circumstances the Under-Secretary to the Home Department should either put the terms of the new clause on the Order Paper or furnish them to the Press, so that everybody interested would see exactly how the matter stood. He thought the House would agree that some regulations in the way of licensing were necessary. In many parts of the country some of these poisons were

kept by grocers and general-store keepers, and if the person who had charge of them was careless there was a danger of the bag containing the ingredients of sheep-dip, for example, bursting and the contents getting mixed with other goods sold in the shop. It was certainly necessary that the local authority, which was acquainted with the character of the persons who retailed those poisons should be consulted as to whether they were suitable persons to hold a licence. The Bill was an immense improvement and produced some order out of chaos. He was glad the right hon. gentleman had been able to announce an agreement on this long-argued question.

Mr. Ashley said there were two reasons why he supported this Bill. In the first place it was a Bill that had come from another place, where he was sure it had received full and ample discussion and consideration; and, in the second place, no guillotine motion had been put upon it. He supported the Bill because he understood it was a compromise arrived at between the chemists and the drug-store companies. Like other hon. members, he had had during the last two years innumerable communications, not only from his own constituents, but from all parts of the country, urging him, on behalf of the chemists, to resist the Bill before the House; and he had also had representations from the companies, pointing out that their demands were just and asserting that the chemists were most unreasonable people. It was very difficult to know what was right and proper in these matters, but as they had been assured by the Under-Secretary and hon. members opposite who spoke for the Pharmaceutical Society that the Bill was satisfactory, as non-experts they did not need to indulge in much criticism on the second reading. He did not think it was quite reasonable of the hon. member for Ashton to state that he strongly objected because one director of these trading companies had to be a qualified chemist. This Bill was a compromise, and therefore neither side could hope to get all they wanted. They had an instance of the difficulty of arranging a compromise in the case of the Education Bill, which was now in a very perilous condition. If the representatives of companies in this House were going to oppose the second reading or criticise it because they could not get everything they wanted, and refused to budge to meet the chemists, then he thought they must rather despair of getting any legislation on this subject. From what he had heard he thought this was a fair compromise, and therefore he should support the second reading. As regarded Clause 2, subsection (1), which laid down that those who were to be allowed to sell certain poisons were to have a licence from the local authority, he most strongly supported that proposal. The people who sold those poisons ought to be under some supervision, and he could imagine no better body than the local authority to have the supervision of these people. He presumed that in towns the authority would be the borough council, and in the counties the county council. One hon. member had urged that the list of poisons sold by these people ought to be extended, but he hoped the right hon. gentleman would be very careful in extending the list of poisons which might be sold by these more or less irresponsible people, because, although they were licensed, they were not like properly qualified chemists. He did not think that dangerous poisons should be put into the hands of inexperienced people in view of the risks which the last speaker had pointed out might arise if these people were allowed to continue as in the past to store and sell these things. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman in his reply would state why Ireland was to be treated differently from England and Wales in this matter. If he could explain subsection (a) of Section 6 he would be obliged, because a more outrageous instance of legislation by reference he had never read. The subsection was as follows: "For the reference to the Pharmacy Act, 1868, there shall be substituted a reference to the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, and the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, Amendment Act, 1890, and the reference to regulations made under Section 1 of the first-mentioned Act shall not apply." Was it reasonable at five minutes' notice to ask the House to criticise such a subsection as that? There was only one other point which he wished to raise. It was a point which, though it might be impossible to deal with it under this Bill, it would be advisable to include if time could be found to do so. He meant that some means should be found to deal with the extensive

use of morphia and other drugs which had unhappily become very prevalent in this country not only among men but also among women. He noticed that Section 5 of the Bill said: "It shall not be lawful to sell any substance to which this section applies by retail, unless the box, bottle, vessel, wrapper, or cover in which the substance is contained is distinctly labelled with the name of the substance and the word 'Poison,' and with the name and address of the seller of the substance, and unless such other regulations as may be prescribed under this section by Order in Council are complied with. . . ." Subsection (2) of the same clause said: "The substances to which this section applies are sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, soluble salts of oxalic acid, and such other substances as may for the time being be prescribed by Order in Council under this Section." Though perhaps when this Bill was originally introduced the question which he raised now was not in the minds of the promoters, he would ask the right hon. gentleman whether he could see his way to include in the list of substances, with respect to which regulations might be made from time to time by Order in Council, morphia and other things which were used in the drug-habit. They had been trying to legislate about drinking, and they had not agreed as to the means to be taken to decrease it, but really the drug-habit in this country was insidiously, and without the whole nation knowing, doing nearly as much harm as drinking. If the right hon. gentleman could see his way, either in this Bill or in some other way, to introduce such measures as would diminish the facilities for obtaining these drugs from chemists and other people, he would do more than could be done by any Licensing Bill to promote morality and upright conduct in this country.

Mr. Vivian (Birkenhead) said the co-operative societies had for the last two or three years resisted the passing of this Bill, but what was called the compromise had given them all the satisfaction they required. There were just two points he wished to deal with. First of all the Bill did not prevent co-operative bodies from carrying on the business of chemists and druggists. The first portion of subsection (4) of Clause 3 gave ample power to carry on business. There was no restriction of any kind in that direction. The other point had reference to the question of title. There had been some difference of opinion on that point between the promoters of the Bill and the co-operative organisations. The chemists protested against the use of the personal title of chemists or pharmacists by corporate bodies, but they were willing that these bodies should use any title which would place before the public full information of the fact that they were carrying on this business. They might therefore adopt such names as "drug-store," "drug-selling department," "pharmaceutical department," "department of chemistry," "dispensing department," "sale of medicines and drugs department," or even "pharmacy and drugs department." The co-operative bodies said that that was sufficient to meet their views, and they had no desire to trench on the personal title, so long as they were able to carry on this particular business. The second portion of the subsection left them free to carry on business under such titles as he had mentioned. There remained, therefore, no substantial difference between the co-operative bodies and the chemists. Personally he objected to all kinds of restrictions. He sympathised with the hon. baronet the member for the City of London on that point. In what he had said he had expressed the views of 1,500 co-operative organisations. He believed he had also expressed the views of the Army and Navy Stores, and similar institutions. The powers contained in the clause would amply serve their purpose.

Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks) in supporting the second reading of the Bill said he especially favoured the measure because it dealt with the subject raised by his hon. friend the member for Blackpool. It was most desirable that steps should be taken to remedy the evil which had come to be known as "the drug-habit." He thought it would be some consolation to his hon. friend to know that this Bill did something to stiffen up the law with regard to the sale of morphia and other preparations.

Mr. Ashley: Where is the provision?

Mr. Forster said it was provided for in this way. Clause 1 said: "Schedule A to the Pharmacy Act, 1868 (which specifies the articles to be deemed poisons within the

meaning of that Act), is hereby repealed, and the Schedule to this Act shall be substituted therefor." The Schedule of the Act of 1868 did not contain any reference to opium or any of the preparations derived from opium. The Schedule of this Bill included "opium, and all preparations or admixtures containing 1 or more per cent. morphine." Section 17 of the Act of 1868 stated the conditions under which it was unlawful to sell poisons, and by applying that Act, as amended by the Bill now before the House, to opium they were really making a very drastic alteration of the law which he most heartily welcomed. There was not the slightest doubt that the drug-habit was largely on the increase. It was one of the most insidious and deplorable diseases to which man or woman could succumb, and anyone who knew of its ravages could not feel other than grateful to those who were making it possible to do something to deal with the question. He knew something of the evil of the drug-habit. He happened to be a member of a voluntary committee which was formed to inquire into the genuineness of one of the cures for inebriety which had been established in the Metropolis. Their proceedings were full of interest. The committee had before them cases in which, so far as they were able to tell, an absolute cure had been effected. The stories of misery which were told by the people who had been cured almost brought tears to the eye even of a hardened politician like himself. He, for one, would feel real gratitude for any opportunity of doing something to make more difficult the acquisition by those unhappy people of the drugs which they abused. That reason would make the Bill acceptable to him if there was no other. He supported the suggestion that vitriol should be included in the Schedule. He would be very glad to see that the conditions of the sale of these drugs were stiffened.

Mr. Hedges (Kent, Tonbridge) said he wished to call attention to the latter part of subsection (4) of Clause 3, which he did not think was necessary. Chemists jealously guarded the use of the title "chemist," and it appeared that corporations and large companies who had been taking that title were no longer desirous of using it. Under the latter part of Clause 3, the monopoly of the use of the title "chemist" had been taken away, and the title of "pharmacist" was given instead. It was not altogether fair to deprive men who had served a long apprenticeship and who had after study passed difficult examinations, to deprive them of this title of "chemist" and give them that of "pharmacist," a term which would be obscure to the man in the street.

Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said that the Bill had come on so suddenly that he had been unable to ascertain what was the full opinion of his constituents on the subject-matter of the Bill, although he had had a great deal of correspondence about it. There were many more points of interest in the Bill than those to which the Under-Secretary had referred. He was not particularly interested in Clause 3, which seemed to him to deal with some compromise as to trade regulations between chemists and druggists. He was afraid that compromises were not much in favour just now; and they were apt to be made between two branches of a trade, as in this instance, without any real consideration for the interests of the public. The fact that a compromise had been made between the two branches of this particular trade—the chemists and the druggists—did not recommend the Bill to him. The really important part of the Bill was Clause 2. As he understood it, the clause did away with the restrictions that now existed with regard to the sale by tradesmen of sheep-dips and other poisonous substances used for agricultural and horticultural purposes. Was there any other country in the world, except our own, which imposed so few restrictions on the sale of poisons of the sort referred to in the Bill? Why should the general health of the community be disregarded, and proper scientific precautions not be taken, and this widespread sale of poisonous substances be allowed, because it was a little more convenient to the farmer to get them from the nearest grocer's shop? It seemed to him that they were now proposing to give a very dangerous relaxation of the law with regard to the sale of poisons, such as would not be permitted in any other country, certainly not in France or Germany whose examples were so often quoted. A large class of people were required to qualify themselves by a long course of

study and by obtaining University degrees after strict examination, before they could enter upon a certain business, in which they were entitled to certain privileges. Was it fair to those people to sweep away the whole system under which they had obtained these privileges simply because agricultural constituents of certain hon. gentlemen would find it a little more convenient to have free trade in poisons carried on by ignorant persons? After all, would other professional people, like his friends who were members of the Bar, and their medical brethren, who had passed severe examinations and qualified themselves for those professions, like the restrictions on the practice of their professions swept away, and be told that their work could be done equally well by unqualified men. Were these dangerous poisons to be spread over the country under the guise that they were useful for agricultural or horticultural purposes? He felt very strongly that the restrictions, instead of being relaxed, should be carefully guarded so as to prevent the ordinary uneducated man selling dangerous poisons, even on the ground that it would be a benefit to a particular industry, such as agriculture. Clause 4 interfered with the existing provisions in relating to the Pharmaceutical Society; it considerably modified their power of granting their certificates; and it would be convenient to know what other changes were proposed. The scientific qualifications and tests of professional skill were to be taken away, and, instead, licences were to be granted by local authorities. Was it reasonable that this House should leave it to an Order in Council to say what was a local authority in which this very important power of granting a licence was to be vested? Parliament itself should lay down what was the local authority whose licence was to be in substitution for a scientific education. While he would not oppose the second reading of the Bill, he trusted the right hon. gentlemen would give the House time enough before they took the Bill in Committee to consider these matters.

(To be continued.)

Personalities.

MR. G. CLARIDGE DRUCE, M.A., Ph.C., Oxford, has been appointed a member of the city Education Committee.

MR. COUNCILLOR C. E. FOX has been re-elected Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Bethnal Green Borough Council.

ALDERMAN R. SHORROCK, chemist and druggist, Darwen, has been elected Chairman of the Corporation Health and Nuisance Committee.

MR. W. STRATTON, 77 Hazlebury Road, Fulham, who was, on December 8, a successful candidate in the election of annuitants for the Benevolent Fund, desires to thank all friends who have so generously helped him in obtaining the requisite number of votes to secure his election.

MR. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, C.M.G., F.R.S.E., F.L.S., Director of the Experimental Farms of the Canadian Agricultural Department, Ottawa, has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in recognition of his services to agriculture in Canada. Mr. Saunders was elected an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 1902.

Information Wanted.

Inquiries for the names and addresses of manufacturers, or other trade information, not traceable by reference to the advertisement-pages of "The Chemist and Druggist" and the "C. & D. Diary," or not filed in our private register, are inserted here free of charge. Postcard or other replies to any of the subjoined inquiries (addressed to the Editor "The Chemist and Druggist," 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.) will be esteemed.

132/47. Makers of desiccated white-of-egg powder.

135/39. Address of London agent for Pabst malt extract.

137/76. Where can Dermato-Sedative Lotion (Schutte) be obtained?

136/22. Where can "Ashton Salts" be obtained? It is used for colouring butter.

136/69. Who are makers or agents for Pattison's African Oil?

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., December 10.

THERE is a steady tone about the markets generally, but the approaching end of the year is already beginning to be felt in various directions. The week has been rather more interesting than one usually expects at this time of the year, the bulk of changes being upwards. The chief alteration is the advance in opium, and it is possible morphine salts may follow. Bromides are exceedingly firm, and a further advance early in the New Year is predicted; the feature here is the small quantity on offer. Iodides look interesting, and the position is very firm in the absence of Japanese supplies. Cocaine is firmer in second-hands, and glycerin is again higher. Acetic acid has advanced 3*l.* per ton, and other alterations include an advance of 3*d.* in ipecacuanha. Spanish aniseed and balsam Peru are dearer. Vanilla at auction was higher, and castorum met with a brisk demand at easier prices. Cassia oil, shellac, and ammonia sulphate are lower. Phosphoric acid may advance. The chief alterations of the week are as follows:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Acetic acid	Balsam Peru.	Castor oil	Ammonia
Aniseed	Cocaine	Castorum	sulphate
(Alicante)	Coconut-oil		Cassia oil
Glycerin	Copaiba		Shellac
Ipecacuanha	Gambier		
Japan wax	Guinea grains		
Naphtha	Mace		
Opium	Palm oil		
Vanilla	Pot. iodid.		
	Turpentine		

Cablegrams.

SMYRNA, December 10 :—Severe frosts have occurred. Constantinople buyers are endeavouring to buy opium in Smyrna at 12*s.* 3*d.*, but the few sellers ask 12*s.* 9*d.*, and a material advance is probable.

NEW YORK, December 10 :—Business in drugs is moderate. Opium is dull at \$4.05 for druggists by single cases, being 5*c.* easier. Jalap has advanced 5*c.* to 40*c.* per lb. Cascara sagrada is slow at 8½*c.* Curaçao aloes is easier at 7*c.* Peppermint oil in tins is firm at \$1.40. Copaiba balsam is dearer at 42*c.* for Central and South American, and at 55*c.* for Para. Hydrastis (golden seal) is steady at \$1.80, and senega is also steady at 42*c.* Potassium bromide is quoted 13*c.* per lb.

[We give this latter quotation with all reserve, as it does not coincide with the views current on this market.—ED.]

ACID, ACETIC.—The price of acetate of lime having moved up a further 25*s.* per ton, acetic acid is about 3*l.* per ton higher; the quotation for 99 per cent. is 32*s.*, 98 per cent. 31*s.*, and 80 per cent 24*s.* per cwt. net, ex wharf in carboys.

ALOES.—The exports of aloes from Cape Colony during the nine months ending September 1908 amounted to 597,919 lb., valued at 5,648*l.*, against 384,763 lb., valued at 3,774*l.*, during the corresponding period of 1907.

ANISEED.—Good Spanish has advanced 2*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. to 37*s.* 6*d.*

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Our New York cable announces an advance, which is confirmed in other sources; prices vary

from 1*s.* 11*d.* up to 2*s.* 1½*d.* c.i.f. to come forward in ton lots, and on the spot holders have advanced their prices to 2*s.* 1*d.* for Maracaibo B.P.

BALSAM PERU.—Holders now ask 6*s.* 6*d.*, business having been recently done at 6*s.* 3*d.* spot.

BENZOLIN.—The *s.s.* *Achilles* has brought 92 cases from Singapore.

BROMIDES.—The position remains exceedingly firm, it being stated in influential quarters that by the beginning of next year there will in all probability be a further advance. As it is, English makers are not anxious to sell, and will apparently only book a few cwt. for prompt delivery to regular consumers at the prices quoted last week. Meanwhile two of the German makers have withdrawn their quotations altogether for this year, but probably a little could be had at a shade under the English makers' price (say 10½*d.*), but it is not so much a question of price as of obtaining delivery. As regards American, business has been done at slightly under 10*d.* on the spot, and in another quarter 10*d.* has been refused, there being few sellers; for a limited quantity of American for shipment from second-hands 10½*d.* c.i.f. is quoted. There does not appear to be so large a quantity in second-hands as had been anticipated, owing to the important quantities which changed hands immediately prior to the advance.

BUCU.—The exports from Cape Colony during the nine months ending September 1908 amounted to 206,792 lb., valued at 6,224*l.*, as compared with 245,921 lb., valued at 7,886*l.*, during the corresponding period of 1907.

CAMPHOR.—Chinese crude is steady with sellers at 134*s.* spot, and bids of less have been refused.

CANNABIS INDICA.—The price of East African is now 4½*d.* per lb.

CASTORUM.—The annual auctions of the Hudson's Bay Co. were held on Wednesday, when 1,459 lb. were offered, as compared with 1,255 lb. a year ago. The quality was quite equal to that of last year, and with a good demand the catalogue was cleared, the principal buyers being on German and Russian account, France buying but little. Prices, which were very irregular, opened at a substantial decline for Y.F. firsts and seconds, but subsequently they partially recovered on other marks, although on the whole they were easier. Thirds and pickings sold fully up to last year's prices, and were comparatively dear as compared with other grades.

The following were the prices paid, those in brackets representing some of the values obtained at the previous year's auctions: *Hudson's Bay Co.'s Sale.*—Y.F., medium to bold, fairly dry, firsts 91*s.* [107*s.*], medium dry mouldy firsts 75*s.* [90*s.*], good dry seconds, few slightly damp, 67*s.* [79*s.*], mouldy and damp seconds 66*s.* [75*s.*], fair bright thirds, mostly dry, few slightly damp 60*s.* to 61*s.* [60*s.* to 61*s.*], dry mouldy thirds 60*s.* [61*s.* to 63*s.*], slightly damp mouldy thirds 57*s.* [62*s.*], good pickings, part slightly mouldy 55*s.* to 57*s.* [54*s.* to 56*s.*], M.R. medium and bold red and dark dry firsts, few dampish, 75*s.* to 76*s.* [83*s.*], medium mouldy seconds, slightly damp, 73*s.* [70*s.*], good bright thirds, slightly damp, 61*s.* [63*s.*], dry mouldy thirds 62*s.* [66*s.*], mouldy and damp thirds 62*s.* [65*s.*], damp pickings, part slightly mouldy 55*s.* to 57*s.* [54*s.* to 56*s.*], M.R. medium bold dampish firsts 71*s.* [90*s.*], bright medium dampish seconds 70*s.* [72*s.* to 73*s.*], dry mouldy medium seconds 70*s.* [73*s.*], slightly damp mouldy seconds 70*s.* [72*s.*], good bright dampish thirds 62*s.* to 63*s.* [63*s.* to 65*s.*], dry mouldy thirds 63*s.* [63*s.*], dampish mouldy thirds 66*s.* [63*s.*], fair pickings, slightly mouldy and dampish, 59*s.* to 60*s.* [59*s.*], N.W. medium to good bold firsts, mostly red pod, fairly dry, 73*s.* to 87*s.* [80*s.*], red and dark medium to good seconds, fairly dry, 69*s.* to 70*s.* [63*s.* to 70*s.*], bright red and dark thirds, fairly dry, 62*s.* to 66*s.* [61*s.* to 63*s.*], fair bright pickings 61*s.* to 63*s.* [58*s.* to 61*s.*], Y.F., etc., small dampish pickings and cuttings 28*s.* to 29*s.* [30*s.* to 32*s.*], N.W. ditto, but 21*s.* dry. At the conclusion of the above auction buyers adjourned to Messrs. S. Figgis & Co.'s salerooms, where 42 packages of Oregon Castorum from Quebec, Montreal, and New York were offered. The total weight was about 694 lb. as compared with 647 lb. a year ago. The prices paid were: fair to good seconds, part slightly mouldy and leathery, 58*s.* to 70*s.*; fair to good thirds, part damp and leathery, 42*s.* to 60*s.*; bold red and dark pickings, 41*s.* to 48*s.*; cuttings and pickings, part leathery, 15*s.* to 30*s.* per lb.

CHILLIES.—Quiet. At auction 60 bags of fair Japan were bought in at 50*s.*

CINCHONA.—The average unit paid at the auction at

Amsterdam to-day was 3.13c. per half-kilo., as compared with 3.32c. paid at the previous auction.

CLOVES.—At auction 25 bales of Zanzibar were bought in at 5½d. for dark and 5½d. for fair; also 5 cases of Penang were retired at 10d. for fair. Privately the delivery market for Zanzibar is firmer, the sales including March-May at 5d. to 5½d. to 5½d., and to arrive December-February shipment has been sold at 4½d., and January-March at 4½d. to 4½d. c.i.f.

COCAINE has a firmer tendency, the lowest second-hand price for a limited quantity being from 7s. 6d. to 7s. 9d. per oz.

COPPER SULPHATE is firmer, Liverpool quotations having advanced 5s. to 10s. per ton to 20l. 15s., and January-March delivery to 21l. 5s.

CUBES.—Holders are still firm at 100s. per cwt. for good genuine, but buyers have not yet responded to this figure.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Subsequent to the auctions small sales of fine reboiled Singapore lump were made at 11l. per cwt. Four cases have arrived from Singapore per *Achilles*.

ERGOT.—New Russian is offered at 1s. 1d. per lb. c.i.f., but on the spot there is practically nothing on offer.

GALLS.—Quiet. Business has been done in December-February shipment at 42s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f. for ordinary shape, and at 44s. c.i.f. for plum-shape.

GAMBIER.—Spot sales of cubes have been made up to 34s., being firmer.

GINGER.—At auction Jamaica sold at steady prices. Of 216 packages offered, 146 sold, partly without reserve, at from 48s. to 50s. for good ordinary small; 45s. 6d. to 47s. 6d. for slightly inferior, and 39s. for Rhatoon. About 600 packages of Cochin and Calicut were brought in, including washed rough Cochin at 36s. In Liverpool 157 bags Cochin in store have been sold at 32s. per cwt.

GLYCERIN.—There is no change in the official prices of double distilled s.g. 1.260 quality, but it is quite understood that refiners are not sellers at the last advance to 68l. 10s. per ton, but probably a few refiners would sell at about 72l. To-day it is announced that several refiners have advanced their prices a further 5l. per ton, now making the official price of double-distilled s.g. 1.260 73l. 10s. in 5-ton lots in tins and cases.

GRAINS OF PARADISE are firmer, about the only holder asking 65s. spot, and Hamburg asks even higher.

GUM ARABIC.—Quiet. Soudan gums offer at 35s. per cwt. for half-hand sorts on the spot, and to arrive new crop is offered at 30s. 6d. c.i.f. Senegal (Bas de Fleuve) is easier. In Bushire so-called insoluble gum business has been done up to 13s. 6d. for sorts, and for pale bold selected amber 22s. is asked.

HYDRASTIS is firm at from 8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f.

IODINE.—A Reuter's telegram states that the directorate of the Iquique iodine combination has been re-elected, and has received authorisation to arrange a fresh agreement covering the next six years.

IPECACUANHA.—Dearer. Sales of Matto Grosso have been made from first-hands at 5s. per lb., at which there is now no more available, the two leading brokers now asking 5s. 3d. Small sales of Cartegena have been made at 5s. 3d. The *Thames*, from Monte Video, has brought 25 packages of Matto Grosso.

JALAP.—New York letter advices continue to indicate an extreme scarcity with advancing prices. See also cable.

JALAPIN.—English makers quote from 17s. 6d. to 18s. 6d. per lb. as to quantity, with the prospect of higher prices.

LITHIA SALTS.—There is talk of a probable advance in prices, but nothing definite appears to be known. Possibly it is based on the fact that makers are not anxious for business at the present low rates, which for *carbonate* range from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d. per lb. as to quantity.

MACE.—Firm. At auction 43 cases of Java were offered and bought in, including good pale and reddish curly at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. and pale curly at 2s. Good pale West Indian was 1d. to 2d. dearer, 53 packages selling at from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. for fair to good, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. for

fair pale and reddish, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. for fair to good red, and 1s. for broken.

MENTHOL is if anything rather firmer at 7s. 1d. spot for Kobayashi.

MORPHINE.—With the advance and general buying in opium, there is a probability of an advance in morphine salts.

MUSK.—The value of Tonquin Pile I. blue skin pod remains at 70s. per oz., and Pile I. old fashioned at 50s. to 55s. per oz. Cabardine is also unchanged.

NUTMEGS.—The moderate supply of 307 packages West Indian was offered and practically all sold at steady to rather dearer prices.

OIL, ANISEED (STAR).—Business for prompt shipment has been done at 4s. 1d. per lb. c.i.f., being a slight recovery from last week's price.

OIL, CASSIA, lower. Business has been done for December-January shipment at 3s. 6d. c.i.f. for 70 to 75 per cent. c.a., and other grades in proportion. The spot price of 80 to 85 per cent. c.a. is 4s. 8d.

OIL, CASTOR, is lower. Hull make for prompt delivery in barrels is quoted at 22l. 15s. for first pressing, and 21l. 5s. for second pressing, ex wharf London, while for January-June 1909 delivery a premium of 5s. per ton is asked on the above prices; cases 50s. per ton extra.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Our Bergen correspondent writes on December 7 that there is very little business doing, and prime non-congealing Lofoten oil is still obtainable at 57s. per barrel c.i.f. Bergen. The exports from Bergen up to date amount to 21,424 barrels, against 12,718 barrels at the corresponding date of last year.

OIL, OLIVE.—The situation in olive oils appears to be growing acute, judging by the advices which come from the various producing markets, where shippers are quite unwilling to do business for forward delivery in view of the present uncertain position. This especially applies to the Levant, where the yield is likely to be about half an average crop.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—Quiet. The quotation for good brands of American Wayne County oil remains nominal at 6s. per lb., and for H.G.H. 9s. is quoted.

OILS, FIXED.—*Linseed* is strong at 21s. 9d., in pipes, and 22s. in barrels. *Cottonseed* is dearer at 23s. for crude on the spot, at 24s. for ordinary pale refined, and 25s. for sweet refined. English refined *Rape* in casks is quoted at 31s. Ceylon *Cocanut* is 6d. dearer at 30s. spot, and Cochin is 33s. 6d. spot. *Palm* oil is 6d. higher at 28s. 6d. for Lagos. *Petroleum* is unaltered at from 6½d. to 6¾d. for Russian, 7d. to 7½d. for ordinary refined American, and 8d. to 8½d. for water-white. *Turpentine*, after advancing to 29s. 3d. per cwt. for American on the spot, receded on Wednesday to 28s. 9d.

OLIBANUM.—Quiet. Good fair drop is worth 45s., middling 37s. 6d., ordinary 26s. 6d., and garblings 15s. to 16s. per cwt.

OPIUM.—There has been a little excitement in this market owing to the fact that cables to hand on Wednesday from Constantinople report severe frosts and cold weather in consequence of which holders there have raised their prices 1s. to 1s. 6d. per lb. all round, added to which Smyrna and Constantinople houses have withdrawn a considerable quantity of stock from the market. Holders on the spot have stiffened considerably, and the value of Turkey druggists is now from 13s. to 13s. 3d., which prices have been paid. Business in fine soft shipping (Tokat) has been done at from 14s. 6d. to 15s., and Hadji Kenu at 15s. 6d. There has been an active demand for Persian, considerable sales having been made up to 14s. 6d. per lb. for good test, and lower qualities in proportion. For shipment, the high prices asked preclude business; but 13s. 6d. c.i.f. might possibly buy January-February delivery.

Writing on December 4, a Smyrna correspondent states that early this week several large American buyers came forward, but as holders will not make concessions on their high pretensions of 12s. 6d. to 13s. for new and 13s. to 14s. 6d. for old, buyers withdrew, but some who had small orders of five to ten cases were enabled to execute them at 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d., as to quality, all new crop. Sowings in the Interior are not

satisfactory, for drought in October, and abnormal cold weather within the past fifteen days has completely stopped all field work, and therefore a successful autumn season cannot be reckoned upon. A despatch from Smyrna, dated November 27, states that this week buyers offered 11s. to 12s. per lb. as to quality, but only five cases new current t.q. changed hands at 11s. 6d. per lb. It is said that the syndicate, who hold a large stock, will not sell anything under 12s. 6d. to 13s. for new and 13s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. for old crop, and the large buyers are compelled to come to them. The arrivals to date amount to 1,929 cases, against 1,286 cases at the same time last year. Another correspondent, writing on December 5, states that the sales amount to 37 cases extra Karahissar, at 110 piastres, or 12s. 2d. per lb., c.i.f. European ports. The presence of buyers of choice qualities renders the situation firm, and a rise is predicted. Arrivals: 1,938 cases, against 1,300 cases.

PEPPER.—Nothing was offered at auction, and privately the market is quiet with fair Singapore offering at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. The market for arrival includes sales of January-March shipments at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and March-May at 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., c.i.f., d/w. Of white pepper at auction, 46 bags of Muntok were bought in at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for good fair. Privately there are sales on the spot at 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for fair Singapore, and for arrival sales of March-May shipments have been made at 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ d., c.i.f., d/w., at which there are further sellers.

PIMENTO.—At auction 567 bags were offered, of which 44 sold at from 2d. to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for fair. Privately 19s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f. is quoted for shipment, and near at hand has been sold at 18s. 6d. c.i.f.

POTASSIUM IODIDE.—The market has a firmer tendency, owing to the fact that the demand is good and that foreign (both Japanese and German) is extremely scarce. It is also difficult to obtain any Japanese for shipment, cables having elicited the fact that there is nothing on offer except for distant shipment. English makers do not anticipate any immediate change however.

RHATANY.—Forty-three bales have arrived in Liverpool, per *Orissa*, from Valparaiso.

SANTONIN.—The situation remains unchanged, second-hand holders continuing to ask about 12s. per lb. to those who are compelled to buy for prompt delivery. Makers are only booking orders for delivery within three months at current rates, but doubt is expressed as to whether supplies will be available within that period.

VANILLA.—At the closing auction of the year the large supply of 1,016 tins was offered, and with a good demand about 900 tins were disposed of at an advance of about 2s. per lb. brown and foxy beans, and one of about 6d. for firsts. The bulk, as usual, consisted of Seychelles, which sold at from 11s. to 13s. for 7 to 9 in., 9s. to 12s. 6d. for 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., 8s. 3d. to 12s. for 7 to 8 in., 6s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. for 5 to 7 in., 6s. 3d. to 9s. for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., and from 1s. 6d. to 7s. 9d. for common foxy and split. A few Bourbon sold at 14s. for 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 in., at 13s. for 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. for 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 in., and at from 7s. 9d. to 10s. 6d. for 5 to 7 in.

WOOD-OIL.—Hankow is slow at 26s. per cwt. on the spot, and for December-February shipment 24s. 6d. c.i.f. has been paid.

Heavy Chemicals.

For the season of the year business in the heavy-chemical market must be considered as being satisfactory. Deliveries against existing contracts are keeping up very well, and new business is quite moderate. Inquiries for delivery during next year are better. Marked changes with regard to values are few; here and there the tendency is somewhat easier, but generally speaking they are well maintained.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.—This market is on the quiet side, and the tendency of prices has been downwards. It would appear that some purchases have been made rather earlier than usual in the month, and, considering this and also the fact that supplies are on the full side, present tendency would seem likely to continue for a little. Present nearest figures are: Beckton forward 11l. 10s., Beckton terms 10l. 17s. 6d., London 10l. 17s. 6d., Leith 11l. to 11l. 2s. 6d., and Hull 10l. 17s. 6d. to 10l. 18s. 9d. As regards forward business, ideas of buyers and sellers are not in agreement, which is probably explained by the fact that makers are fairly well sold for delivery early on in the year. Buyers' ideas seem to be about 2s. 6d. to 5s. advance on prompt, against makers' 7s. 6d. to 10s.

ALKALI PRODUCE.—Bleaching powder has a slightly lower tendency for some markets. There is a very fair demand both for prompt and forward, with price on basis of 4l. 2s. 6d. for

softwood casks on rails. Caustic soda for prompt and early delivery stands well, but there is not much doing for deferred delivery; 76 to 77 per cent. 11l. to 11l. 2s. 6d., 70 per cent. 10l. 5s. to 10l. 7s. 6d., and 60 per cent. 9l. 5s. to 9l. 7s. 6d. Ammonia alkali, 58 per cent., continues very steady, and in request at 4l. 10s. to 4l. 15s. per ton in bags free on rails, and 2s. 6d. to 5s. per ton for larger forward contracts. Soda crystals are on the quiet side at from 52s. 6d. to 57s. 6d. per ton free on rails, and 57s. 6d. to 62s. 6d. per ton f.o.b. Tyne, and 60s. to 65s. per ton f.o.b. Liverpool. Saltcake quiet at 40s. to 42s. 6d. Bicarbonate of soda 5l. 15s. to 6l. 2s. 6d. per ton in large casks, and 6l. 5s. to 6l. 15s. per ton in 1-cwt. kegs f.o.b. Liverpool. Chlorates of potash and soda 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., in accordance with quantity, etc. Yellow prussiates of potash and soda are on the quiet side, at about 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. for the former and 3d. to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. for the latter. Hyposulphite of soda is on the whole fairly steady, ordinary crystals in large casks at from 4l. 17s. 6d. to 5l. 7s. 6d. per ton. Deliveries in 1-cwt. kegs vary according to quality and quantity, and run from 5l. 12s. 6d. to 8l. per ton. Silicates of soda steady, 140° Tw. 4l. 5s. to 4l. 15s., 160 Tw. 3l. 15s. to 4l. 5s., and 75° Tw. 3l. 7s. 6d. to 3l. 17s. 6d. per ton, according to quality, quantity, and destination.

Manchester Chemical-market.

Manchester, December 8.

The returns of exports of heavy chemicals show a decline in common with other commercial products. This probably explains the reason why in several departments lower prices are ruling for delivery over next year. Caustic soda is quoted at 10l. 2s. 6d. to 10l. 7s. 6d. on rails for 70 per cent. Bleaching-powder ranges from 4l. 2s. 6d. to 4l. 7s. 6d. per ton in quantity, softwood casks on rails. Sulphate of copper is weaker at from 21l. 5s. to 21l. 15s., best brands delivered Manchester. White powdered arsenic is reported rather scarce and in sellers' favour. Bichromate of potash and soda are firm. Brown acetate of lime is quite nominal for American, and lower at 5l. 17s. 6d. to 6l. Miscible naphtha has advanced, and as high as 3s. 6d. per gallon is said to have been paid. Oxalic acid is lower at 3d. per lb. Coal-tar products continue quiet, although benzols are fractionally higher for 50°. Crude carbolic acid is rather lower. There is little change in dry-salteries. Nitrate of soda, cutch, and gambier are steady. Pearlash is practically off the market.

Continental Drug and Chemical Markets.

BALSAM PERU has been greatly in demand during the last few days, but there is a general scarcity, and it is impossible to get offers for shipment. This is apparently a move of the Peruvian shippers, who are holding back owing to the present low prices.

CARNAUBA WAX.—The last few days have brought one surprise after another. The fact that the Brazilians withdrew several lots of current grey and fatty grey from the market led to a sharp advance, and a series of blank sales had subsequently to be covered. The rise in price amounted to about 15 per cent. since the middle of November. Sandy grey is quoted 197.50m. to 196m., and fatty grey 251m. to 212.50m. in Hamburg.

ERGOL.—The last few days have brought a greater demand. At the same time holders are firm and prices are maintained. Russian is quoted 220m. to 240m. per 100 kilos., and is almost on a level with Spanish, which is 260m. in Hamburg.

LYCOPodium.—The demand in Hamburg is still very poor, despite the small supplies. Cases are offered locally at 315m. and bags at 305m. ex warehouse.

MILK-SUGAR.—It is stated that the French Parliament are about to impose an import duty of 50 fr. per 100 kilos. on milk-sugar, it being allowed to enter duty free at present. French consumers are therefore urged to fill their requirements.

Amsterdam Cinchona Cablegram.

AMSTERDAM, December 10.—At the auction of cinchona held here to-day 10,138 packages Java bark, weighing 956,100 kilos., and containing the equivalent of 55,964 kilos. quinine sulphate, were offered, of which 9,819 packages sold at an average unit of 3.13c. per half-kilo., as compared with 3.32c. paid at auction on November 5. The following were the approximate quantities of quinine purchased by the factories: (1) The English and American factories, 13,816 kilos.; (2) the Brunswick factory, 4,261 kilos.; (3) the Mannheim factory, 8,050 kilos.; (4) the Amsterdam factory, 7,133 kilos.; (5) the Frankfurt and Stuttgart factories, 6,150 kilos.; (6) the Maarsse factory, 8,305 kilos.; (7) various buyers, 5,984 kilos. The lowest price paid for manufacturing bark was 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and the highest 36 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.; while for druggists' bark from 5c. to 40c. was paid. The coca leaves sold at from 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 61c. per half-kilo.

Consular Counsel.

Mauritius.

The Colonial Secretary at Port Louis, in his report on Mauritius for 1907, remarks with reference to the import trade that the United Kingdom is being hard pressed by the competition of Germany, Belgium, and France. This competition, however, cannot be taken as evidence of any falling-off on the part of the United Kingdom, being due to a general scarcity of money. The superiority of British products is admitted, but the bulk of the inhabitants cannot afford to buy them.

Batoum.

In drawing attention to the unsatisfactory state of trade between Batoum and the United Kingdom, H.M. Consul at that port states that though the present may not be a suitable time for endeavouring to improve commercial relations, yet, he thinks, despite the prevailing depression, much could be done to prepare the ground for future development. He is informed by a British merchant of Tiflis that there is always a demand for chemicals, especially copper sulphate, prices for which should be quoted c.i.f. Batoum in Russian currency.

Brazil.

The drug-trade is among the most important of Bahia, the supplies being mainly of French or American manufacture. Our Consul believes that there exists at Bahia a good opening for British trade in pharmaceutical preparations, infants' foods, toilet preparations, and similar articles of good quality and established merit. He understands that the medical men of Bahia are largely in the habit of prescribing for their patients medicinal preparations of a proprietary nature. The local trade in "patent medicines" is very considerable, American preparations being especially in vogue. The magnitude of the trade is evidenced by the fact that the bulk of the advertisements in all the local newspapers consists of announcements setting forth the alleged virtues of patent remedies of various kinds. The trade also is exploited almost entirely by American and by French manufacturers. In connection with the drug-trade at Bahia it should be borne in mind by British manufacturers that all labels, directions for use, and explanatory matter should be in the Portuguese language, and that all articles should be largely advertised. Over 1,000 tons of soaps of various kinds are imported annually into the Bahia district; of that quantity but an insignificant proportion is of British manufacture. Photographic appliances command a considerable sale, the United States, Germany, and France being the principal sources of supply.

Chefoo.

The French Consul at Chefoo, in a recent report, states that the "Mao cheng" soap, manufactured by Monson, of Frankfurt, is very popular among the natives, the price being 71c. per box of three tablets, but it has to compete with the "Mao long," manufactured by Swift & Co., of Chicago, which is very similar and sells at only 40c. to 50c. The brand "à la Rose" is the most popular. The "Mandarin toilet-soap," of J. Crosfield & Sons, Ltd., Warrington, is much appreciated among the Chinese middle class. The design on the box pleases the Chinese, and the Consul recommends French manufacturers to take a lesson from it. Many other brands may be seen in the Chefoo market, but as a rule they are only sold to foreigners. The following are the chief: Assorted toilet-soap (Pears, London), 45c. to 50c.; glycerin soap (Pears, London), 80c. to 90c.; carbolie toilet-soap (Calvert's, Manchester), 75c.; Cuticura soap (Potter, Boston), \$1.75; Angelica violet glycerin (de Gottlieb, Taussig & Co., Vienna), 75c. per box of small tablets and \$1 for large tablets; Savon de Cologne (German), \$1.50 per box of three tablets. The soap of the German soapworks at Tsingtao has not yet appeared on the market. The most popular bar-soaps are the Pioneer washing-soap, of Robin & Houston, Ltd., Glasgow, \$5.50 per box of twenty bars (50 lb.), and the "Primrose" of Gosage & Son, \$6.50 per box. Japanese soap has at last succeeded in securing a place in the market owing to its low price of \$3.75 per box. The American house Swift & Co. also sell a certain amount of bar-soap at \$4 per box.

The Consul remarks that there is a good opening for perfumery on the Chefoo market. Florida water, in particular, is extremely popular with the natives.

Japan.

The figures relating to the imports of indigo into Japan in 1907 are striking as showing the favour enjoyed by the synthetic product. The importation of natural indigo amounted to 566,795 yen and 314,638 yen value in 1906 and 1907 respectively, or a decline of 252,157 yen, whereas the corresponding figures for synthetic indigo were 3,880,077 yen and 5,876,705 yen, an increase of 1,896,628 yen. The synthetic makes 94 per cent. of the total indigo import. The movement in aniline colours was relatively featureless, as was the case also with oil-colours. England and France did most in enamel-colours. Chemicals, drugs, and medicines imported rose in value from about 10,000,000 yen in 1906 to 18,832,000 yen in 1907. The leading items in the group were sulphate of ammonia, caustic soda, nitrate of soda, chloride of potash, etc. The soap imported was valued at 769,255 yen, or about 200,000 yen more than in 1906, but there is a slight set-back in perfumery, cheap goods being produced by Japan herself.

London Drug Statistics.

The following statistics are compiled from information supplied by public warehouses. They relate to the receipts and deliveries of some of the leading drugs from and into the London public warehouses for the month of November 1908, and to the stocks on November 30.

	November		Stocks		1908	
	Landed	Delivd.	1908	1907	Imprtd.	Delivd.
Aloes.....es. etc.	193	186	326	312	1,810	1,748
... gourds, etc.	—	—	1,268	1,560	566	849
Aniseed, star.....es.	—	—	124	—	135	11
Arrowroot.....pkgs.	48	1,130	7,025	6,241	12,413	11,52
Balsams.....cks. etc.	9	42	427	494	629	709
Calumba.....bgs.	—	14	116	612	34	535
Camphor.....pkgs.	225	302	1,547	2,986	7,093	8,261
Cardamoms....."	185	455	1,001	1,786	3,238	3,995
Cinchona....."	230	429	3,971	4,988	3,977	4,977
Cocculus indicus..	—	5	—	17	—	17
Cochineal....."	46	49	691	638	487	422
Cubebs....."	15	9	141	200	15	66
Dragon's blood....."	12	20	110	57	272	225
Galls....."	428	198	1,451	2,000	2,025	2,621
Gums—						
Ammoniacum....."	6	—	10	11	6	7
Animi....."	58	98	257	195	1,036	952
Arabic....."	428	647	5,953	6,961	7,826	8,662
Asafetida....."	4	143	93	260	515	771
Benzoin....."	266	121	491	824	1,271	1,483
Copal....."	4,982	4,171	25,003	16,774	48,582	40,104
Damar....."	606	267	3,560	1,994	6,302	5,207
Galbanum....."	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gamboge....."	—	11	86	41	122	111
Guaiaacum....."	—	14	78	43	106	70
Kauri.....tons net	95	36	577	663	992	1,003
Kino.....pkgs.	—	5	114	59	76	19
Mastic....."	—	3	11	1	25	15
Myrrh, E.I....."	45	117	322	182	608	503
Olibanum....."	40	158	1,646	1,166	1,750	1,181
Sandarac....."	102	118	336	227	1,189	1,167
Tragacanth....."	1,657	1,081	3,988	3,589	11,881	12,078
Ipecacuanha—						
Cartagena....."	14	6	27	47	59	87
E.I. ("Johore")....."	1	—	13	40	97	129
Matto Grosso....."	13	27	60	78	174	186
Minas....."	—	5	54	61	62	82
Jalap.....bis.	—	7	10	22	64	76
Nuxvomica.....pkgs.	—	715	821	20	2,183	1,386
Oils—						
*Aniseed, star.....es.	—	2	29	21	60	52
*Cassia....."	10	9	65	25	138	95
Castor.....pkgs.	65	71	255	301	1,013	1,068
Cocnut.....tons	270	202	1,491	133	2,918	1,876
Olive.....pkgs.	227	435	1,814	1,480	8,367	7,986
Palm.....tons	3	—	8	11	25	27
Quinine.....lbs.	5,563	6,499	207,781	221,426	36,423	49,361
Rhubarb.....cs.	97	95	718	548	851	706
Sarsaparilla.....bis.	201	113	342	188	1,219	981
Senna.....pkgs.	905	695	1,276	935	4,317	3,942
Shellac.....cs.	4,772	4,898	48,137	25,212	64,007	40,787
Turmeric.....tons	28	33	268	355	198	267
Wax—						
Bees.....pkgs	73	436	2,074	2,062	5,643	5,509
Vegetable(Jap.)....."	—	24	186	179	415	477

* Stocks of essential oils at Smith's Wharf and Brewer's Quay are not included.

Optical Observations.

By a Chemist-Optician.

Notes of Cases.

WILL correspondents note that when sending particulars of cases for comment in this column it is essential that they should send the fullest details of the history and general conditions of the case, as well as the usual particulars about visual acuity? It is frequently a difficult matter to determine the proper correction when the customer is under one's own care, and obviously it is a much harder task to express an opinion when he is not, and it is only possible in such cases to suggest some method or other which may or may not prove successful. These remarks are called forth by one or two queries I have had sent to me recently. The following, sent by R. M. (116/29), may be of general interest:

Gentleman, aged 35. R.E. practically blind, can only see hand movement. L.E. V = $\frac{3}{80}$ except three letters; with +0.5 sph. \ominus +1.0 cyl. axis 90° V = $\frac{1}{10}$. Both with and without this correction when he reads he sees a shadow to the right of the letters. What is the cause of this?

Now other details which might have been added are as follows: How long had the right eye been useless, and what was the cause of its defect? Had glasses been worn before, and, if so, what kind? Had there ever been any medical or surgical treatment of the eyes? Was there anything abnormal about the left eye, and does the shadow only become apparent when he reads the test-types or at other times as well? On the data given I can only suggest the following reasons: There may be an opacity of some kind in the lens or vitreous which casts a shadow on to the retina; there may be detachment of the retina or scotoma; or, if the shadow only appears when reading close to the eyes, there may be some sense of vision stimulated in the right eye, giving rise to an imperfect sensation of sight.

Another correspondent, *Optics* (117/51), wishes advice respecting a girl of fifteen, who has had glasses prescribed by a local medical man with far from beneficial results. To quote his letter:

The girl is fifteen years of age, very anæmic and delicate. She was given for constant use -3.5 sph. \ominus -1.25 cyl. in both eyes, but complains that wearing them makes her feel giddy and sick. Objects are diminished in size and altered in position; she feels she cannot walk straight, and the kerb of the pavement appears to be higher than in reality, thus causing her to lift her feet high and bring them down suddenly. The oculist was told of these defects, but he directs the glasses to be worn, telling my customer that he is thinking of the child's sight when she reaches the age of fifty years. Under pressure he prescribed -1.5 sph. \ominus -1.25 cyl. for reading, but these have not yet been worn.

There certainly seems to be a good deal of reason for the customer's supposition that the glasses are too strong; the correction ordered for constant use gives -3.5 D in one meridian and -4.75 D in the other, and it is obvious that anyone myopic to this extent would have very poor vision indeed without glasses, and it would seem on the face of it that, without some very rapid development of the myopia due to severe illness or other cause, advice would have been sought much earlier. Then, again, it is a recognised rule in refraction-work that a concave lens which diminishes the size of objects is of too strong a power, and many writers recommend giving a lens slightly weaker than the one arrived at in testing, so as to be sure of not giving lenses over strength. The reason for this procedure is as follows: A myopic eye is one which either through abnormal axial length or undue power of refraction brings parallel light to a focus before it reaches the retina, and not on it, as it should do; the excess of axial length is the usual condition, and the concave lens is used to diverge the rays so that they do not come to a focus until the retina is reached. If, however, the lens is too strong, the focal point falls behind the retina, and in the attempt to see clearly the eyeball tends to elongate and thus to aggravate the condition it was desired to alleviate. At the same time, I should have thought that objects appearing smaller, the kerbstone would have appeared farther away, and the foot meets it before the mind is prepared; possibly this is what really happens, but the child has expressed it in the easiest manner. Another point may be in the directions of the axes of the cylinders; if these are not in the correct meridian it would

probably be quite sufficient to account for the feelings of giddiness and sickness, especially in one who is naturally delicate. My correspondent is unable to give me any particulars as to the visual acuity, and I should advise the sight being carefully tested again independently, as there is not the slightest reason why the glasses should cause misery now in order to do good thirty-five years hence.

The Use of Centring-lenses.

When using an adjustable trial-frame greater accuracy can be obtained by means of a pair of centring-lenses. These consist of a ground-glass disc, having a clear circular space about half an inch in diameter in the centre, across which are drawn two lines at right angles to one another. These are put into the trial-frame, and the points of intersection brought to correspond with the centres of the pupils, thus ensuring great accuracy of adjustment. This is especially useful when very deep lenses are required, as if the centres are not true a certain amount of prismatic effect is induced, which gives rise to error in the correction, even if the frames or clips afterwards fitted are perfectly centred.

Frame-fitting.

The refractionist who uses the adjustable frame for the purposes of face-measurement can afterwards determine to a finer degree the pupillary distance, facial width, etc., although the tendency now is to keep an assortment of the most frequently required sizes ready, and to use them as fitting-frames. One soon becomes quite adept in picking out the correct frame, generally getting a good fit at the second or third attempt. Naturally, now and again a customer is found who is difficult to fit. In such cases the face has to be measured. I had a case quite recently of a lady with one ear considerably higher than the other. She desired a curl-side frame, and for some time I could not see why the frame would not set nicely, until I noticed this peculiarity.

A Wayward Customer.

One of the most awkward customers I have had to deal with for some time was an elderly lady of considerable means, who came in and said she required some spectacles. She was shown into the sight-testing room and all went well until she was requested to read the test-types, when she indignantly exclaimed that she had come to buy a pair of spectacles, and if I thought that she was going to read letters off a card like a schoolgirl I was very much mistaken. Further than this I could not get, although the use of the chart was carefully explained to her; but she would have nothing to do with it, and as she was a good customer to the pharmacy for dispensing and other work, I was obliged to do the best I could with the retinoscope alone. I fortunately succeeded in fitting glasses which have proved satisfactory; but it is an experience which I do not want again.

Glassmakers' Cataract.

I see that the Home Office Committee reports "that glassmakers' cataract should be added to the list of diseases for which the employer must compensate the workman thereby incapacitated. Examination showed that cataract is many times more common in workers exposed to the glare of molten glass than in the rest of the population. The committee fear that to give full compensation would mean that many workmen would be dismissed before the disease entitled them to payment, and as an operation restores a worker practically to full capacity, they restrict the compensation to cases where an operation is undergone, and for a period not exceeding six months." As a rule cataract occurs in persons of middle age and of a hyperopic or presbyopic tendency, and is understood to be due to the constant pressure on the lens, caused by the continual and increasing exercise of the accommodation, bringing about a condition of malnutrition particularly favourable to causing opacity. If this theory is correct, it seems at first sight an example of remove the cause and avoid the effect; but probably in the majority of cases the condition is well advanced before any advice is sought. If the subject then comes to the optician he is perforce recommended to obtain medical advice, which, adhering to the conservative method, is wait till ready and then operate. This course produces excellent results; but in the case of a worker whose livelihood depends on his sight the enforced period of inactivity is a very serious difficulty, and if this could be avoided by any means it would be of far more benefit than any number of good recoveries.

British Optical Association.

THE following are the papers which were set in the examinations held by the Association for the Dioptric Grade on November 24 and 25:

Section III. Part A.

1. What is meant by the term "Rectilinear Propagation of Light"?

Describe simple experiments which prove this to be true, and explain how real and partial shadows are produced. (20 marks.)

2. Show clearly by the aid of a diagram what is the relative index of refraction from one medium into another.

The index of refraction of water is given as 1.336, and that of carbon bisulphide as 1.678. What is the index from water into carbon bisulphide? (25 marks.)

3. Summarise the proofs of the composite character of white light. (25 marks.)

4. How can light be polarised? Name two methods by which such light can be distinguished from ordinary light. (30 marks.)

5. Describe and explain the phenomenon known as the mirage. (25 marks.)

6. An object is placed on the axis of a spherical concave mirror, and 1.54 metres from the mirror. The image is formed at a point 0.45 metre away.

Find the radius of curvature of the mirror. (25 marks.)

Section III. Part B.

7. Describe the different forms of bi-focal lenses, not cemented, and how they are produced. (15 marks.)

8. Transpose into spherical-cylinders the following crossed cylinders and state the rule for the process:

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|
| (a) | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} +3.75 \text{ cy } 80^\circ \\ -6.50 \text{ cy } 170^\circ \end{array} \right.$ | |
| (b) | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -1.25 \text{ cy } 10^\circ \\ +7.75 \text{ cy } 100^\circ \end{array} \right.$ | |
| (c) | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -2.75 \text{ cy } 115^\circ \\ -5.75 \text{ cy } 25^\circ \end{array} \right.$ | (15 marks.) |

9. Describe the appliances in your trial case and their application in practice, omitting the spherical and cylindrical lenses. (15 marks.)

Section III. Part C.

9a. Define (a) lenticular astigmatism, (b) Purkinje's images, (c) diplopia, (d) acuity, (e) the fovea centralis. (30 marks.)

10. Draw a diagram showing the course of rays from an object to the retina in a case of simple astigmatism with the rule. State clearly which rays are in a horizontal and which in a vertical plane. How will the rays be affected when the correcting lens is worn? (50 marks.)

11. A presbyope requires a correction of two diopters for reading type at a distance of ten centimetres. Where is his near point without the glasses? Assuming his vision otherwise normal, where is his far point with and without the glasses. (45 marks.)

12. What is a "fogging" system? When and how is it used? (40 marks.)

13. Discuss the advantages of periscopic lenses. (35 marks.)

14. What do you understand by accommodation? How is it brought about? (40 marks.)

Section III. Part D.

15. Describe the manner in which images are received on the retina. Briefly describe the essential microscopic elements of the retina. How do you explain the principle of the cinematograph or "living pictures" from an optical point of view? (60 marks.)

16. Describe the lachrymal gland and its connections. In what ways may this gland, when disordered, affect the optician's work? (30 marks.)

Section III. Part E.

17. Give as far as you know them, all the causes of strabismus. By what methods would you ascertain whether you had to deal with a case of actual strabismus or a high-angle gamma, and explain the difference between the two conditions? (30 marks.)

18. What connections exist between accommodation and convergence? When is it necessary to take into practical account such connections and why? (30 marks.)

The time allowed was three hours for Parts A and B, and the same for Parts C, D, and E. The examination was conducted at the University of London, South Kensington, and was a record one in number of candidates.

The "Thames" Colour-plate.

LAST year the sensation in the photographic world was the introduction of the "Autochrome" plate, which enables direct-colour photographs to be taken readily and easily. The process gave quite a fillip to the business at a time when things are generally dull. Now another colour-plate has been introduced which differs from the "Autochrome" in having a separate colour-screen. In the "Thames" plate the sensitive plate is an ordinary gelatin one—colour-sensitive—which allows of easier manipulation with consequent less danger of frilling. Each "box" of "Thames" plates consists of two, in one of which are two colour-screens, and in the other four sensitive plates. If the first attempt to get a satisfactory positive fails, the plate only is wasted, and the screen can be used again—a manifest saving of expense.

It was not possible to get flowers in the colours required upon which to expose these plates, so an old showcard in colours was used which contained a good range. The dark-room was made absolutely free from the presence of any light, and a plate in contact with one of the screens was inserted in the dark slide, the sense of touch being the only guide as to its correct position.

The isochromatic screen used on the lens was an ordinary one of what is known as "five times," and the speed of the plate being given by the makers as "H & D" 12, an exposure-meter was used, and an exposure at F 11 of twenty seconds was allowed. The necessary solutions having been mixed, the plate was developed, reduced, and washed in the dark-room for a given time, and in total darkness. It was then removed into the light, and the final operations of reversal, re-development, and fixing were accomplished, the directions being minutely followed all through.

At this stage the positive had all the appearance of an ordinary "soft" lantern-plate, except that a faint pattern formed by the passage of light through the colour-screen when the exposure was given was apparent, especially when viewed through a magnifying-glass.

When dry it only remained to mount this positive in "register" with its original colour-screen, which is specially marked for this purpose, for a transparency in colours to result. This proved a somewhat difficult task. When it is realised that some thousands of violet, green, and red spots occupy 1 square inch, and it was necessary to place the screen over the positive so that it occupied exactly the same position as when exposed, it can readily be imagined that the task of mounting "in register" is not an easy one. At one moment the positive would appear in monochrome; at another, as the screen was slightly shifted, waves of iridescent colour would be seen, which changed to a picture in colours, but complementary to the ones desired. Eventually the positive in its correct colours was obtained, and, clips having been placed along the edges to keep it from moving, it was bound with rubber plaster. The result for a first attempt was very satisfactory, and what struck one particularly was the ease and simplicity of the whole developing and reversing process—and in this it compares most favourably with the "Autochrome" process, which from first to last requires fourteen different manipulations, not including the final varnishing, the "Thames" needing but eight from first to last.

In addition no special precautions need to be taken in handling, as with "Autochromes," the plate showing no sign of frill at the end of the process.

The colours produced are very true to the originals, although, as all the light has to pass through the screen, there is some loss, and a consequent lack of brilliancy; but this may be due to slight error in exposure and subsequent manipulation.

The colour-screens also are by no means perfect as yet, blue spots being apparent on some, which show in the finished result, others having too much red or blue in their composition, which slightly affects the finished positive. These no doubt will be improved in course of time. The price of the new plates is less than that of "Autochromes," and more within the means of the rank-and-file of photographic amateurs.

"I ALWAYS FIND something interesting and useful in the C. & D.," said a Manchester chemist (15/25) when renewing his subscription on November 17.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on December 2, at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin. Dr. J. A. Walsh (in the unavoidable absence of the President) occupied the chair. The other members of the Council present were Messrs. G. D. Beggs (Hon. Treasurer), David M. Watson, Richard Blair, William Vincent Johnston, Thomas Batt, James Michie, and Joseph Henry Bowden.

THE PHARMACY BILL.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Council having been read and signed,

The CHAIRMAN said that he came to be in the chair that day because Mr. Smith and Mr. Wells had to proceed to London on Monday in connection with the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill. The second reading of the Bill was down for Tuesday night, but it was not reached. After the second reading the Bill would almost immediately go into Committee, and hence it was felt necessary that Mr. Smith and Mr. Wells should be on the spot.

LICENCE-EXAMINATION MARKS.

Mr. FERRALL (Registrar) read a letter from the Assistant Under-Secretary, Dublin Castle, with regard to the above, which stated that the Lord-Lieutenant and the Privy Council had decided not to approve of the amended Pharmaceutical Licence Regulation VII. made by the Pharmaceutical Society on September 2 (see *C. & D.*, September 12, p. 412, and November 14, p. 771). The letter added: "If, however, the Council of the Society desire to submit a regulation as proposed by Sir John William Moore, M.D., in his memorandum on the 17th ult., it will be considered by the Privy Council."

The CHAIRMAN said that the regulation dealt with the marks. The Council only put in the words as to the minimum marks in order to make the regulation more clear, but without making any change in it. The Society could carry out all they wanted under the regulation as it stood at present. As the Law Committee had Sir John William Moore's report still under consideration, he thought it might be as well to refer this letter of the Assistant Under-Secretary to the Law Committee.

On the motion of Mr. BEGGS, seconded by Mr. JOHNSTON, the letter was accordingly referred to the Law Committee.

RECOGNISED SCHOOLS.

Mr. FERRALL read a letter from the Assistant Under-Secretary, Dublin Castle, asking for the observations of the Council on a letter which had been received from Mr. O'Carroll, Secretary of the Dublin Technical Education Committee, complaining that the Pharmaceutical Society had declined to recognise the classes in botany and materia medica held in the Municipal Technical Schools. In the letter which Mr. O'Carroll sent to the Castle he stated that the Pharmaceutical Society had declined to add the school to their list without raising any question as to the merits of the lecturer or the course of instruction. Mr. O'Carroll's letter to the Castle concluded: "I am further directed to inquire whether it is in accordance with the Regulations approved by the Lord-Lieutenant and his Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland that the Pharmaceutical Society has declined to meet the wishes of my committee in this regard."

Mr. BEGGS: I take it that we are not bound to accept any school.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand the recognition of a school rests entirely in the hands of the Council, and that there is no authority to compel us to recognise any school we do not wish to.

Mr. MICHIE: I think our letter to the school should have stated that we do not recognise a school which has not a teacher with a medical or pharmaceutical qualification.

Mr. BEGGS: Our letter to the Lord-Lieutenant should state that we are not bound to recognise any school.

The CHAIRMAN: I would be inclined to state to the Lord-Lieutenant that we are not bound to recognise any school, and that in this case, as the Society has its own botany and materia medica classes, Dublin students would suffer no

inconvenience by the Council's refusal to recognise these classes in the Municipal Technical Schools.

Mr. WATSON: We can state that at present there are sufficient facilities for students of such classes in Dublin without adding to the facilities.

The CHAIRMAN: We have recognised the Municipal Technical School for chemistry classes, but we have declined to do so for botany and materia medica.

After further discussion, the following resolution was passed:

That the Privy Council be replied to that in the regulations approved of by the Privy Council power to add to the list of recognised schools is vested in the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, which is of opinion that there are at present sufficient facilities in Dublin for students studying for the examinations of the Society.

MEMORIALS FOR REDUCTION OF FINES.

Mr. FERRALL read communications from the Assistant Under-Secretary enclosing copies of memorials from three persons who had been fined, in prosecutions by the Pharmaceutical Society, for breaches of the Poisons Act. The first case was that of Thomas Carroll, ironmonger, Carrick-on-Suir, who had been fined in two sums of 5*l.* on two summonses for selling McDougall's sheep-dip, and the memorialist stated that the Magistrates said they would recommend the fine to be reduced to 1*l.* in each case. In the second case Patrick J. McCrann, shopkeeper, Lanesborough, co. Longford, and his assistant Edward Reilly (who made a sale of Cooper's sheep-dip) asked to have the fines of 5*l.* each imposed on them reduced.

Mr. FERRALL said the prosecutions had been initiated by the police, and the convictions were secured on police evidence.

Mr. MICHIE asked if Carroll had been cautioned as to the sale of sheep-dip before being prosecuted.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought not. In the case of McCrann he understood that he had been cautioned.

Mr. WATSON asked what these cases had cost the Society.

Mr. FERRALL said the expenses would be 30*l.*, and if the Society got the full proportion of the fines as imposed it would still suffer loss.

The CHAIRMAN said they ought to request the Lord-Lieutenant not to reduce the fines, considering the great expense the Society had been put to in the prosecutions, which were really police prosecutions.

The suggestion was agreed to.

EXAMINERS ELECTED.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. WATSON, Dr. Barnes and Mr. Woodroffe were re-elected as Preliminary examiners of the Society.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. Guiler was re-elected Registered Druggist examiner.

ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS.

Mr. Robert John Savage, Ph.C., the Cabra Medical Hall, Phibsborough, Dublin, was elected a member of the Society. The following gentlemen were nominated for membership: Mr. Thomas Lyster Foster, Ph.C., 108 Patrick Street, Cork; Mr. James Dundee, Ph.C., Malone Pharmacy, 95 University Road, Belfast; Mr. James Reardon Moloney, Ph.C., 42 Queen Street, Nenagh. Mr. Michael Condon, R.D., Hospital, Knocklong, was nominated as an associate druggist.

This concluded the public business.

"THE CHEMIST'S DICTIONARY OF MEDICAL TERMS AND TREATMENT," "including as it does numerous terms not to be found in general dictionaries, and, if at all, often only after long search in medical dictionaries, will be of obvious value as a glossary in connection with the reading of works on materia medica, and of scientific periodicals." So writes an American journal.

GERMAN SPIRIT.—At a meeting of German spirit-manufacturers in Berlin it was stated that the production for the season 1908-9 would exceed that of the previous year by about 11.1 per cent., as, according to the reports received from interested quarters, the potato-crop would amount to 85,790,896 cwt., as compared with 81,531,829 cwt. in the previous year. The starch-content is estimated at 18.6 per cent., as compared with 18 per cent. last year, and the quality of the potatoes about the same as before. As for various reasons it is impossible for the old "Zentrale" to fix exactly last year's prices, a payment on account of 2.50m. per hect. will be made.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. Publication of letters does not imply our agreement with the arguments or approval of the statements therein. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects presumably of interest to our readers generally. Letters received after the early posts on Wednesday cannot as a rule be dealt with in the current week's issue.

BUSINESS INFORMATION.—We have very full records of the makers or agents for articles and products connected with the chemical and drug trades, and supply information respecting them by post to inquirers. Inquiries regarding any articles which cannot be traced in this manner are inserted under "Information Wanted."

Chemist-Dental Association.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Gratitude" has hit the mark by suggesting the formation of an association to defend the interests of registered dentists against attacks upon our undoubted privileges. Several dentists have written to me on the subject, and I shall be pleased to place my services at the disposal of my confrères with a view of forming a protective association, in which I would suggest that all advertising matter should be passed by our advisers as not coming under the denomination of "advertisements of an objectionable character"; and should any action of an adverse nature be taken subsequently, the Association would see the matter through, which could be accomplished far better by an association, and at little expense to the person attacked. I hope "Gratitude" and other dentists will communicate with me, and I will take the necessary steps to form the desired association. Let me repeat the words recently uttered by one of our leading statesmen on another topic, but equally applicable to this:

To argue that because there is no immediate danger we need not make any preparation is to encourage neglect and the procrastinating weakness for which we have paid so dearly in the past.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED HIGGS.

42 Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames.

Mr. Gifford's Policy.

Mr. R. Lord Gifford, pharmaceutical chemist, Blackburn, sends us a copy of a letter which he has sent to Mr. W. Holt (President of the North-East Lancashire Association) in further explanation of his views on the titles question:

DEAR MR. HOLT,—Some explanation must be made as to the reason why we withdrew opposition to the Government's Poisons and Pharmacy Bill. You must remember that the quarrel which has waged within the Council during the last few months has been twofold. We objected to titles being given away, and we also protested against the methods by which the new policy was carried out. But recognising the title "chemist and druggist" as a trade description is the same thing as dropping our claim, and this has been done whether we like it or not.

This is the material fact to remember, and if you do it will not be necessary or desirable to enter into further argument now. Let it suffice that no useful purpose could be served by fighting the system and the powers further. But, on the other hand, in an interview Mr. Campkin, Mr. Hagon, Mr. Hobbs, and myself had in the House of Commons on December 1 with Mr. Idris and Mr. Snowden, when the whole question was discussed, we found Mr. Idris anxious and eager to do anything and everything possible to help us. He contrived that Mr. Snowden should be on the Standing Committee to which the Bill would be referred, and how great the influence of Blackburn's junior member is in such councils we all appreciate. Special endeavours will be made that the title "pharmacist" shall be given really professional character by restricting its use to personal practice solely; otherwise it will have no meaning and little effect, except to depreciate the Major qualification. I shall be glad to discuss the very many issues involved whenever you wish.

Yours faithfully,

R. LORD GIFFORD.

"Keep in Step."

SIR,—It is evident that F. A. Degen (*C. & D.*, November 23, p. 829) knows me although I do not know him. He has hit me off in certain of my peculiarities or frailties or faults no doubt, but he is mistaken in some others, which I will try to point out. I was apprenticed in 1864, and my master was himself an "old fogey." Many of his lessons very properly stick to me yet—why not? he was my instructor, I his pupil. He taught me to wear a white apron—(he always wore one)—I cannot even now do without it. It is not fashionable certainly, but it is comfortable and handy. He showed me how to clean windows inside and out, and to clean scales, shake mats, put up shutters, sweep the shop and the shop-front, wash bottles, and a host of other things which are not now considered as essentials to high-class pharmacy. These things I continue to do. My business is small. I cannot do more than 6*l.* or 8*l.* per week, which does not allow for even an errand-boy. 'Tis only a suburban village, and has only one chemist. F. A. D. did not carry on his observations of the modern opponent far or long enough. He was only a drug-store man. He certainly began, as F. A. D. states, so poetically, and while I was handing out Sal Epsomii at two ounces for 1½*d.* he was offering them at 1*d.* per lb. But time tries all things, and he sold out to another man. This time a young man, up to date, had dispensed in big London shops, still did not qualify. Same procedure, same prices, added to such modern lines as preventives and female pills, which I was too old fogeyish to touch. Does not a very old writer say you cannot touch pitch without being defiled? A short time tied him up also, and now, if F. A. D. will call and look, the shop is not flourishing even as a cheap toffee-shop. My old fogeyism seems to be liked somehow. My penny powders are called for. I get twopence for a headache-powder. I do all the dispensing which comes to the district, though two resident doctors have the bulk of the practice. I get fair prices. I have been in the same shop nearly thirty years. I like to see the ivy growing round house and shop. I have good health. I am not unwilling to accept new ideas. I take a daily paper and the *C. & D.* I have a B.P., a "Squire," a 1908 "Herbal." I am registered under the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and the Dentists Act, 1878. I am in the P.A.T.A. and the C.D.A. I pay drug and sundries accounts monthly. I am bald. I wear spectacles. I take my weekly half-holiday, and don't care for Sunday trade; in short, I am satisfied and fairly cheerful. I append my balance account after thirty years' trading.

All my creditors are trade creditors, and amount to 19*l.* My assets are thus:

	£	s.	d.
Book-debts, good, about	10 0 0
Cash in bank	2 0 0
Cash in desk	13 0 0
2½ per cent. Consols	125 0 0
Cash in Building Society	25 0 0
Freehold property bought in Building Society during twenty-three years	735 0 0

I make no mention of the value of stock and fixtures, as I never take stock and so can't value them. Now, F. A. D., why should I keep in step, or rather, why should I get out of my present step?

OLD FOGEY. (91/19.)

"Minor Apprentices."

SIR,—I sat for the Major, by special permission of the Council, eighteen days before attaining my majority, and passed (in Honours). I think this will be hard to beat, especially as I worked sixteen hours a day and fourteen every alternate Sunday.

Driffield.

LEWIS BUTTLE ROSS, F.C.S., C.C., etc.

SIR,—I passed my Minor in 1877 while an apprentice at Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., North Bridge Edinburgh. Afterwards studied for the Major while at Bell's, but broke down in health and on the advice of the late Mr. John Barnard (dear old man!) I gave it up. Have regretted it ever since.

Hanley.

Yours faithfully,

ED. JONES.

SIR,—One of your correspondents claims a record as regards the age of qualifying, being exactly twenty-one years of age, and asks "if there are any who have qualified

as young?" I think the Thames Valley Chemists' Association "takes the biscuit": the ex-President (Mr. J. Parrott, of Richmond) received his Minor certificate when just sixteen years of age, which fact was chronicled in your biography of the President (*C. & D.*, April 18, 1908).

Yours truly,

Kingston-on-Thames.

A. LEONARD HIGGS.

SIR,—The following may be of interest: I was born February 2, 1855; apprenticed 1870; passed Preliminary 1871; was a student at the Square under Redwood, Bentley, and Atfield 1872; passed the Minor May 19, 1873. Haselden was the Chairman, and the Examiners were Davenport, Linford, Martindale, Cracknell, Southall, Allchin, Gale, and Barnes. I was then eighteen years old, and was always under the impression I was the youngest member on the register.

Yours truly,

W. C. TUCKER.

Queen's Crescent, London, N.W.

SIR,—The letters concerning Minor apprentices are extremely interesting. Times, pharmaceutically, have changed in thirty years. The millstone to the apprentice of to-day is the Preliminary examination. Unless he accomplishes this even before beginning his apprenticeship and, if not, very soon after, it is a good many chances to one whether he ever visits "Bloomsbury Square" at all. I have not met many failures in the business yet, but the majority of unqualified men from twenty-five to thirty-five at the present time attribute their failure to their negligence in not attending to the Preliminary in the early part of their career. I am hopeful of accomplishing my Preliminary in a short time, after about six months' hard work, which could have been entirely avoided had I properly understood the position when I was first apprenticed to the business.

Yours faithfully,

SPES ET OPUS. (134/49.)

SIR,—A great change has come over the trade as regards apprentices within recent years, and the time has come when girls have to take the place of boys. The reasons for this change are not far to seek—viz., the entrance examination, the long hours, and Sunday labour. Boys who are educated sufficiently to pass the First examination in most cases pass into the professions or engineering or similar trades where the hours are shorter and Saturday afternoons free. On the other hand, those who enter before passing their examinations with the long hours find it a great struggle to get through or swell the ranks of the unqualified. My own apprenticeship was an interesting one. By working while on night-duty and by an improvised laboratory, I was able to pass the Minor six months before completion of apprenticeship and without being a day off, except examination-days. I was also fortunate in securing my diploma a few days after my twenty-first birthday, fees being sent on in advance.

Yours faithfully,

Inverness.

THOMAS MACKENZIE.

SIR,—My brother-in-law (as he has been for many years) and I were apprentices together with a certain chemist in the Eastern Counties; he passed his Minor examination two years before his apprenticeship terminated, and was then eighteen years of age. I passed a little later at eighteen and a half, but had just taken my first situation. But for the fact that I was allowed to leave three months or so before my time was up (this sounds rather like a reference to penal servitude!) the pair of us would have come under your category of apprentices passing the Minor. Our old master—long since over the borderland—never had but the two apprentices, and both passed the Minor before their nineteenth year. For my part I had to work through the Preliminary as well: my colleague did this before leaving school. At that time it was possible to get out of this by means of a declaration as to schooling and so on, signed by the master and another person of influence; such a paper was filled up for me and signed by a medical man and my master, but my mother interfered—would not hear of any such backstairs work—so, willy-nilly, I had to buckle to at the Latin once more. I have ever since regretted that I did not go on to the Major exam.; it would have been to my advantage.

OLD STAGER. (137/48.)

SIR,—Although I did not pass the "Minor" during my apprenticeship, I think my struggles to become registered are worthy of mention, if only to encourage the unfortunate

apprentice or assistant who, like myself, entered the trade under very discouraging circumstances. I was apprenticed at the age of fourteen and a half, having received no other education than that afforded by the parish school, and twelve months in an office. The new Preliminary had not long been in force, and the general comments upon its difficulty thoroughly disheartened me; so much so that I decided not to attempt to qualify. After fifteen months' idleness my master persuaded me to make the best of a bad job; so I began my uphill task. Eighteen months' conscientious work, during which the midnight oil was often burned, sufficed safely to negotiate the College of Preceptors' examination. I continued my studies in the Preliminary subjects, taking, in addition, chemistry at the local technical school. At the end of the first session I obtained two first-class South Kensington certificates in theoretical and practical chemistry, and soon afterwards a first-class advanced theory certificate and a pass in advanced practical. I then worked slowly at the more pharmaceutical subjects, and last July, about three months after my twenty-first birthday, passed the Minor at my first attempt. I think the Chairman's words when he told me I had made a very high pass more than compensated for the many long, but not altogether unpleasant, hours which I spent in order to attain this end. Like the majority of apprentices in English pharmacies, my practical knowledge of dispensing and pharmacy was limited, but I made amends by reading the "Art of Dispensing" from cover to cover, and never lost an opportunity of noting any dispensing difficulties which from time to time appeared in the *C. & D.* This, with a few months at a school of pharmacy, soon made me proficient. Let me add that no person of average ability need fear the Preliminary. It is greatly misjudged. The Minor theory is by no means hard, but the practical is stiff, and is the cause of such a large percentage of failures.

Yours truly,

GEORGE YÄGER.

King's Lynn.

The Future of Pharmacy.

SIR,—"Pharmacy for the pharmacists" was the keynote of the Presidential address at this year's British Pharmaceutical Conference, and the question—affecting, as it does, not only the life-interests of an important and honourable profession, but also to a great extent the health of the nation—is one that deserves more attention than is evinced in a mere academical discussion. In fact, it is a subject which every pharmacist should make it his duty to take up actively for his own benefit, apart from the obligation to his profession to further its interests by all the means in his power.

That a large body of citizens should devote many years of their life to mastering the knowledge required for dispensing drugs and undergo a scientific, as well as technical, examination on this subject under forms recognised by law, and then find that the acquired rights practically form an insignificant part of what is to all intents and purposes the real scope of their adopted career, is certainly an incongruous anomaly. Yet the question of entrusting the British pharmacist with his legitimate task of making up prescriptions written by medical practitioners, and the abolishing of dispensing by the latter, is by no means new, and it is interesting to note "The Lancet's" attitude expressed on April 1, 1905. Here this proposal is welcomed as contributing to raise the position of the medical profession:

Undoubtedly it would be advantageous to the medical profession in every way if medical men prescribed their medicines only, leaving the making-up of the formulæ to the dispensing chemist. The practitioner would appear to his patient's eye as the dispenser of medical knowledge, and as nothing else, and the patient would understand that his fees were due to the member of a scientific profession, and not to a retailer, however distinctly scientific a branch of business the retailer may be engaged upon.

But further, "The Lancet" deprecates that the realisation of this plan is impossible, and to prove this adduces two arguments. The first is that many parts of the country are too poor and too sparsely populated to support a dispensing chemist. The second is more interesting—viz., "the public, especially the uneducated public, put faith in a medical adviser who is prepared with a material remedy as well as with spoken precepts." In

our days of compulsory education and universal enlightenment—down to sixpenny editions of Haeckel's "World Riddles"—this admission comes to us rather as a shock, and it may be pardonable to entertain just the suspicion of a doubt whether this relic of the medicine-man's godlike halo may not be fostered by the practitioner himself, for "while the existing sentiment cannot be ignored," we learn that "a poorly paid class of professional men make a small profit by dispensing their own medicines." In the numbers of "The Lancet" (September 26, 1908) and "British Medical Journal" (October 24, 1908) which deal with Mr. Wright's address, this subject is very lightly skimméd over, and the professional vials of wrath are poured forth on the chemist's head for daring to do counter-prescribing, and also the growing sale of proprietaries is bewailed.

But now a rather delicate question: Is the medical man perfectly free from blame that this state of affairs exists? Does not the charge made for consulting a physician often act as a deterrent? The practically inevitable accompanying "material remedy" may, too, have contributed towards strengthening the average Briton's love and belief in the potent properties of anything in the shape of "physic," which is almost a national characteristic. The growth of sick-clubs and similar institutions, the complaints of doctors about so many well-to-do patients going to hospitals, are all very interesting signs of the time. May not the dispensing by doctors be the cause that now our new therapeutic remedies have to be imported from abroad, where, perhaps, under other circumstances the greater interest shown in such matters might have proved indirectly the salvation of the British chemical-industry? This may seem far-fetched, but a certain parallelism cannot be denied.

That the health of the nation is a question of paramount interest is an indisputable fact, and this has, indeed, led the Socialist party in some Continental countries to demand the nationalisation of the art of healing. Bellinzona made the experiment: the medical men of the town receive annually a fixed allowance, and every inhabitant is free in every sense to seek medical advice. But the inhabitants of Utopian Bellinzona are apparently not endowed with what should have been their fair share of restraint and fraternal feelings; many of them proved so preoccupied about the welfare of their bodies by day and night that the doctors demanded an increase. On the town refusing this they simply went on strike a very short time ago. This is another example of the lamentable fact that in spite of all human nature is not yet ripe for the practical adoption of the Socialistic millennium.

But to "pharmacy for the pharmacists." It is an unfortunate fact that for some years past it has been the custom to seek inspiration abroad, where formerly England led the way in reforms. In Germany, on the one hand, the monopoly system, which in some countries is practically merging into a peculiar form of Government enterprise, and in others is tortured by a diversity of projects all tending to effect its salvation, all by limiting the pharmacist's freedom without granting him the guarantees otherwise afforded by receiving a recognised Government mandate. In other countries, again, where dispensing by physicians is prohibited and yet the free exercise of pharmacy exists, we find that this system works apparently to mutual satisfaction. Of course, grumbling is rife among pharmacists under either system; this seems to be almost a universal asset of the profession, largely due to its anomalous position of a scientific profession with the outward accessories of the "shop." But the ultimate system which should prove satisfactory to both physician and pharmacist should be a British product. Let it be arrived at by careful consideration and deliberation, and by mutual agreement to engender mutual respect, profession for profession, as well as regarding their separate spheres of work. We may justly admire the advances made abroad, but it must be remembered that what so often appears to work smoothly and is so praiseworthy in its own *milieu* will, under circumstances, prove a total failure when applied to the totally different inherent views and idiosyncrasies that obtain in our isles. For this reason every British pharmacist should contribute his share towards solving the problem of justifying his *raison d'être* in the community. This will then bring about a practical raising of the standard of the profession, successful far

beyond any artificial subterfuges to this really noble end by juggling with dazzling but empty titles.

Yours faithfully,

DELTA. (100/91.)

Sale of Spirituous Tinctures.

SIR,—I am sure drug-store proprietors in a little while will hardly know where they are if such bewildering statements as those which appeared in the *C. & D.*, November 28, p. 828, are made from time to time. Surely the Board of Inland Revenue do not intend "medicated wines and spirits" to mean also "spirituous tinctures." If so, I am afraid they forget the "stupendous concession" they made a little while back with reference to the sale of "known, approved, and admitted remedies." Those tradesmen who had served a *bona-fide* apprenticeship to a qualified chemist and druggist were allowed the same privileges as a registered chemist to prepare recipes. These recipes, it is quite obvious, cannot now be legally prepared at all if the Board of Inland Revenue do not intend to extend the same privilege under the Spirits Acts as they do under the Medicine-stamp Acts. It is, to say the least, remarkable that the Board should allow drug-store proprietors to carry on their businesses and sell daily these self-same "spirituous tinctures, etc." for over twenty years to my knowledge without complaint—that it should take them all this time to find out its "illegality." Is it not primarily another sinister move by those in authority to try to deprive drug-stores of an honest livelihood as previously enjoyed for such a length of time I think "Xrayser" is right, and do not think there is a law in the land that will sanction such downright unfairness and inconsistency.

Yours truly,

A DRUG-STORE PROPRIETOR. (113/31.)

SIR.—The correspondence *re* above opens up a very interesting subject, and it would be well to know exactly where chemists stand with regard to supplying wines and spirits. I received quite recently the following prescription, written by a veterinary surgeon:

Vini xerici 3vj.

Ft. haust. Statim. For the dog.

I was in doubt whether I could legally supply it, because, on the one hand, as a chemist I thought I had no right to sell wine that was not medicated, and, on the other hand, as a wine-dealer I was not allowed to sell a smaller quantity of wine at a time than a half-bottle—*i.e.*, about 13 oz. Again, supposing I received a prescription similar to the following, could I supply it?—

Mist. spiritus vini gallici 3ij.

Ft. haust. Statim.

The brandy in this prescription is not medicated; it is simply made more palatable.

Another difficulty presents itself to me with regard to eau de Carmes, which is advertised for the cure of indigestion, nervousness, etc., and which I take to be a partly medicated spirit. As a chemist I am not allowed to sell it at all, but as a spirit-dealer I am allowed to sell it in 1½-oz. bottles, and although my spirit-licence distinctly states that I must not supply a smaller quantity of spirits at a time than a whole bottle—*viz.*, about 26 oz. The same difficulty occurs also with regard to several proprietary wines which are put up in smaller bottles than 13 oz.

Yours faithfully,

CYMRO. (138/11.)

P.A.T.A. in Ireland.

SIR,—As there is at present no Irish chemist on the Council of the P.A.T.A., I have been proposed as a candidate for the Retail Section. A contest thus arises at the approaching election, and it is hoped that members by their votes will make the occasion the beginning of constant representation of Ireland in the future.

Yours faithfully,

1 Charlemont Street, Dublin. A. J. BARNES.

Glossing Show-birds' Feathers.

W. F. (133/35) writes: "A year or more ago a customer brought me an emulsion to look at which had been used by a prize-winner. It was glycerin and cucumber cream. I have supplied this since. Quite recently a well-known poultry fancier told me that while above answered for a day, Lait Larola will stand for four days."

Dispensing Notes.

Clear or Cloudy.

SIR,—Would you kindly let me know if it is possible to make up the accompanying prescription, as written, so that it will remain clear after two or three days? It has been dispensed elsewhere and retained its brightness. I have dispensed it several times, but on each occasion, after standing three days, it has thrown down a deposit.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. (134/18.)

Liq. strych. ...	...	...	...	3ss.
Tr. strophanth. ...	...	...	...	3ss.
Tr. card. co. ...	...	...	...	5ij.
Aq. ad ...	...	...	...	3vij.

[The mixture prepared according to this prescription should have a precipitate formed in it if the compound tincture of cardamoms be strictly in accordance with the Pharmacopœia. The mixture is so dilute that the precipitate requires considerable time to become evident. In a stronger mixture it would show in half an hour or so. The precipitate is due to the action of the tannin from the cinnamon in the tincture of cardamoms on the alkaloid. A tincture of cardamoms in which an equivalent of oil of cinnamon is used instead of bark gives no precipitate. The patient should continue to get the medicine from you.]

A Green Mixture.

SIR,—Can you kindly inform me why the mixture compounded from the following prescription turns green? It did not do so till a fresh supply of inf. caryoph. conc. was put into stock.

Puzzled. (44/33.)

Bism. carb. ...	...	...	...	3iij.
Sodii bicarb. ...	...	...	...	3iv.
Spt. chlorof. ...	...	...	...	3ij.
Liq. morph. ac. ...	...	...	...	3iss.
Inf. caryoph. ad ...	...	...	...	3vj.

[We have prepared this mixture with freshly made infusion of cloves. After standing for several days the brown colour of the supernatant liquid has acquired just a suggestion of an olive tint, but we cannot say that there is any true green in it. Possibly the concentrated infusion contains some iron or copper. Try it for these. But why use concentrated infusion when the B.P. infusion is so easily made and conducive to uniformity?]

Bismuth-and-Soda Mixture.

SIR,—I should be glad to have your opinion as to the best way to dispense the subjoined prescription. It has been made up in about half-a-dozen establishments, including a well-known store, and the patient told me that only one sent it out fit to take; that with the rest it was caked hard at the bottom of the bottle, and sometimes burst it.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. (135/5.)

Bismuth. salicylat. ...	...	...	...	3iiss.
Adde—				
Spt. vini rect. ...	...	...	...	5ij.
Sodii bicarb. ...	...	...	...	3iss.
Ext. casc. sag. ...	...	...	...	℥XL.
Ext. glycyrr. ...	...	...	...	3j.
Aq. ad ...	...	...	...	3vij.

3j. ter die sumend.

[Put the sodium bicarbonate and the extracts into a bottle with half of the water. Shake well, add the bismuth salicylate, again shake, add the rectified spirit (which is useful to lay the froth), and fill up with the remainder of the water. This method produces a nice mixture. The suspended matter shakes up satisfactorily, and, owing to its lightness, does not settle quickly. We cannot account for the hard cake at the bottom of the bottle or the bursting, unless these were due to the use of defective material or unnecessary interference with the mixture. The cake suggests gum having been used. This is not needed. The prescription as written is all right.]

Legal Queries.

Administration (129/73) puts the following case: A's father died thirty years ago. He left a will. His mother had the income for her life. There were five children living, who had to have equal shares at their mother's death. She died a month ago. After the father's death A's eldest sister married. She had one child. It died eighteen months before she died. Her husband married again. He died leaving issue to second wife. The local solicitor says A's eldest sister's portion of personal estate goes to her husband's issue, on the ground

that he would inherit it through the death of the child. A's sister left no will. The solicitor says letters of administration will have to be taken out on her behalf by the husband's executor. Is that right? [Before we can properly answer this query we ought to see a copy of the will of A's father, but we are inclined to think that the advice given to A is correct.]

* * * "Miscellaneous Inquiries" are held over.

Trade-marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with Sir C. N. Dalton, K.C.M.G., C.B., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form No. 7, cost £1, obtainable through any money-order office.

The figures in parentheses refer to the classes applied for.

(From the "Trade marks Journal," December 2, 1908.)

- "LUXOLINE"; for goods (1). By I. Snitslaar, 40 Pyrland Road, London, N. 306,360.
- "ANTIFUNGUS," and label device; for a chemical (1). By S. S. Linnett, 59 Parsons Street, Banbury. 306,614.
- Label device of letters "A. S. C." entwined; for all goods (1). By the Ammonia Soda Co., Ltd., Lostock-Graham, Cheshire. 306,743.
- "ZOTOS"; for goods (1 and 3). By F. T. E. Souter, 37 Egerton Crescent, London, W. 307,113, 307,115.
- "CEPTAL"; for photographic chemicals (1). By Ilford, Ltd., Ilford, London, E. 307,396.
- Label device; for dog-pills (2). By H. W. K. Pears, Goldstone Chemical-works, Hove, Sussex. 306,518.
- "MYOPHORE"; for an insecticide (2). By J. Cazal, 17 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W. 305,536.
- "SANETTE"; for disinfectants (2) and a disinfectant container (13). By A. Atkinson, 2 Parliament Street, Harrogate. 306,185, 307,192.
- "CALSERCH"; for chemicals (2). By I. Bentley & Co., Ltd., Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester. 307,326.
- "VESOL"; for chemicals (2). By Wm. Cooper & Nephews, Berkhamsted, Herts. 307,415.
- "DUKURA"; for a veterinary preparation (2). By J. H. Cuff & Sons, 1 Market Road, London, N. 307,511.
- "RADIOGEN"; for chemicals (3). By the Radiogen Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Berlinerstrasse 122, Charlottenburg, Germany. 303,064.
- Label device; for nine oil (3). By A. Carlssons, Jönköping, Sweden. 304,599.
- "EX-ZAR" and "RIN-GAR"; for goods (3). By W. T. Gregory, 11 Dugdale Street, London, S.E. 305,600/602.
- "TISANIA"; for herbal preparations (3). By O. F. Traenkner, 57 Cartwright Gardens, London, W.C. 306,645.
- "FLUVINE"; for a medicine (3). By R. Fellowes and D. W. Massey, New Cleveland Street, Kingston-upon-Hull. 306,843.
- "FOERHEU"; for chemicals (3). By the Foerheu Co., 52 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C. 307,193.
- "IODOR"; for chemicals (3). By Tardieu & Cie., 6 rue des Petits-Hôtels, Paris. 307,206.
- "PINAX"; for medicated bath salt (3). By J. Singleton, 41 Corporation Street, Manchester. 307,289.
- "EASINE"; for a teething-liquid (3). By G. J. Packe, 15 Harley Street, London, W. 307,317.
- "MACKENZIE MEDICINE COMPANY," and label device; for chemicals (3). By E. H. Selby and A. E. Butterfield, 1A Golden Avenue, London, E.C. 307,409.
- "THE BRADGATE," and picture of same; for chemicals (3). By T. E. Butler, Sons & Co., Leioester. 307,593.
- "ASTOPAL"; for an asthma-remedy (3). By I. W. Nicholl, 25 High Street, Belfast. 307,681.
- "PATTIMOSS"; for pastilles (3). By Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., Lower Priory, Birmingham. 307,690.
- "BEWTONIA"; for all goods (48). By J. A. Wylie, 6 Oriol Chambers, Liverpool. 306,147.
- "GUYKALIA"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By F. Guy, 11 and 12 North Street, Brighton. 307,221.
- "ADIN"; for all goods (48). By the Adin Co., 231 Strand, London, W.C. 307,130.
- "SERVATIUS"; for perfumed soap (48). By Cuno Hering, Neue Groningerstrasse 7, Hamburg. 307,353.

Society of Chemical Industry.

LONDON SECTION.

THE second meeting of the session was held at Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., on December 7. The Chairman of the Section (Dr. J. Lewkowitsch) presided. The paper was by Messrs. C. F. Cross and E. J. Bevan on

CELLULOSE AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRY,

which, however, dealt with comparisons of natural and artificial textile materials. Both the authors were present, Mr. Cross reading the paper and replying to the questions. The lecturer commenced by giving statistics of imports of raw products and relative costs of working up cotton and flax yarns, the raw material representing 40 and the working cost 60 in a total cost of 100. The part of the industrial chemist in the cotton, flax, and allied industries was next dealt with, and a short account of the "heart-damage" in jute bales was given. The investigation of this phenomenon was undertaken at the instance of the Indian Government.

The fault is occasionally found at the centre on opening commercial bales, and is represented, in the extreme form, by total disintegration of the fibre. The chemical changes are hydrolytic degradation of the cellulose complex, both the lignone and cellulose being attacked, and the authors suggest that it may be due to the activity of anaerobic organisms. Paper-making was touched upon, mention being made of the attempt to utilise the by-products liquor by precipitating it with gelatin and using the product as a sizing-agent in tanning. A comparison of the artificial lustra-celluloses with silk followed from the point of view of breaking-strain and elasticity. For silk, if the breaking-strain is designated as 2.0 to 2.5, that of the artificial product is 1.0 to 1.5, the corresponding elongations being 15 to 25 per cent. and 12 to 17 per cent. respectively. However, with tin-weighted silk the decrease in strength is greater than the proportionate weighting. Thus China raw silk of strength value 53.2 became on boiling off 25.0; on dyeing red and tin-weighted, 20; dyed blue-black and tin-weighted (110 per cent.), 12.0; with 140 per cent. tin-weighted, 7.9; and 500 per cent. tin-weighted, 2.2. The defect of artificial silk is sensitiveness to water, but treatment with formaldehyde increases its resistance to the absorption of liquids, and its dyeing properties are modified also. The cost of the treatment is about 5d. per kilo. The breaking-length of fabric was next defined as the length (in metres) under which it would break by its own weight. The approximate values given were: Silk, 22,000; cotton yarn, 13,000 (4); flax, 12,000 (2); lustra-cellulose, 11,000 to 12,000 (10 to 15); wood pulp (paper fabrics), 6,000 (6 to 7); paper, 6,000 to 1,000 or under—the figures in parentheses being the percentage elongations. An account of a new series of acetylated cellulose derivatives concluded the paper. The acetylation of the cellulose with acetic anhydride, using a saline catalyst (ZnCl_2) and glacial acetic acid, was stated to be under complete graduated control, and 80 per cent. of the acetic anhydride was utilised. The cellulose mono-acetate was stated to be the most useful of the series. Its hygroscopic power is low, and its specific inductive capacity renders it useful for electrical insulation.

In the subsequent discussion the "heart-damage" of jute, referred to as "heart-disease," was the chief topic, and opinions were evenly divided as to whether the phenomenon was due to enzyme action or to bacterial activity.

Dr. Lewkowitsch asked concerning the problem of making alcohol and sugars from celluloses, also concerning the application of acetyl cellulose in making non-inflammable cinematograph-films.

Dr. Rosenthal said he had heard no mention of cellulose.

Mr. W. F. Reid wished to know if the acetyl celluloses would make good fabrics for balloons, as cotton fabrics leak much more than silk.

Dr. Tenier stated that artificial filaments one-tenth the size of real silk had been made.

Other points mentioned were that mercerised yarn is more suitable for making incandescent mantles than ramie fibre, and that in practice, although the acetyl celluloses showed high resistance, they become brittle and chip badly.

Mr. Cross, in reply, said he did not believe there would be any industrial outlet for alcohol from cellulose products,

and in decomposition of ligno-celluloses a point was reached at which the decomposition became explosive, and this would possibly account for the high temperature developed in the "heart-damage" of jute. He had purposely left out explosives, and did not wish to contrast other points which he was anxious to avoid.

Several papers were taken as read.

MANCHESTER SECTION.

At the meeting held at the Grand Hotel on December 4 the discussion was continued on Professor Kipping's presidential address to the Chemical Section of the British Association dealing with the decadence of British chemical industries. The Chairman (Dr. Grossman) said it seemed undesirable to have a clashing of interests between the School of Technology and the University School of Chemistry. Technical research, which concerned itself with improvements in an existing manufacture, belonged more to the Technical School than to the University, while the study of theoretical chemistry was the province of the latter. He suggested that after a three-years' course at either institution the student should decide whether he will undertake special theoretical or technical research.

Professor Greenland said at present the students were trained to be "Jacks-of-all-trades." He instanced paper-making as requiring 30 per cent. knowledge of chemistry and 70 per cent. knowledge of engineering.

Mr. Hübner pointed out that only big associations can afford to pay chemists for specialised research work.

Professor Knecht gave his experience of the perfect organisation in the large works in Germany. He had formed the impression that the Germans paid more attention to the propagation of their industries than the English do, and the heads of the firms on retiring still kept their money in the businesses.

Mr. Allen agreed that it would not pay to have a research chemist in every works, but asked for more to be employed, and that manufacturers should not expect immediate returns.

Dr. Benfey said the German firms did not ask for a return from their chemists during the first few years. The general opinion seemed to be that the chemical-industry of the country is not in such a parlous condition as its critics make out; also that the better education and discipline of the German boy is a factor in his success over his English *confrère*.

NOTTINGHAM SECTION.

THE first of a series of four lectures on the bleaching-industry was given on November 25 at University College, Nottingham, by Mr. S. R. Trotman, who dealt with

THE SELECTION OF WATER-SUPPLIES.

There was a good attendance, Mr. O. Quibell being in the chair. The lecturer stated that this course is largely due to Dr. Kipping's address to the Chemical Section of the British Association. The object of bleaching, Mr. Trotman said, is to remove from the fibres their natural colouring-matter and adventitious dirt, and to produce the nearest possible approach to pure white. The first thing the bleacher has to do is to make the impurities soluble in water. Soap and soda do this. Every stage of bleaching depends on water, which should be pure. If a bleacher has mastered the water question he has often mastered the trade. There must, of course, be sufficient water, but its quality is of more importance than the quantity. The purest kind of natural water is rainwater, which is also of special value to the bleacher as it contains traces of ozone and of peroxide of hydrogen. In large towns, however, it is apt to contain bacteria, which cause discoloration in fabrics that are dressed with gelatin and other substances containing nitrogen. Rainwater also becomes available as river and well water, which, however, acquires impurities from the earth. The presence of iron is especially harmful; but the precipitation of the other metals in the process of softening brings down the iron. A very small quantity of iron will give a definite colour to a fine lace net, owing to the compound formed with the trace of tannic acid naturally contained in the cotton fibre. A quantity of iron so small as 0.05 part in 100,000 is too much for successful

bleaching, which shows the necessity for a careful watch of the purity of the materials, as some soaps will introduce more than this. Other objectionable impurities are sodium chloride and sodium sulphate, both being hygroscopic, causing the dressed fabrics to absorb moisture. Sodium chloride, and especially sodium sulphate, are besides powerful agents in hindering the removal of dirt. Other salts act in the same way, but not quite to the same extent. The lecturer then showed the importance to the bleacher of the removal of lime and magnesia from the water that he uses. He explained the meaning of temporary and permanent hardness and the usual test (Clarke's) to find out the amount. In this connection he pointed out that frequently no distinction is made between the hardness due to lime and that due to magnesia, but the latter is five times as bad for the bleacher as lime. The hardness of magnesium chloride is specially objectionable, as when the water is heated for steam-raising hydrochloric acid is formed, which damages the iron plates, causing this metal to enter into solution. Obviously this is very bad for the bleacher, who wants to keep iron out of the water he uses. After showing the harmful nature of scale in steam-boilers, Mr. Trotman explained the general principles of water-softening, which he illustrated by an apparatus in actual work, and concluded by a description of the Archbutt-Deeley, the Pater-son, and the Wilson water-softening apparatus.

The next lecture of the series is fixed for December 16, and will be on the "Chemistry of the Cotton Fibre, Soda-boiling and Selection of Soaps." Mr. S. J. Pentecost will co-operate with Mr. Trotman on that occasion.

SCOTTISH SECTION.

At the meeting held this week in the Technical College, Glasgow, Mr. D. J. Playfair presided. The communications were "The Value of the Polenski Number in the Analysis of Oils and Fats," by Messrs. R. R. Tatlock and R. T. Thomson, and "The Estimation of Sulphide in Alkaline Cyanides," by Dr. Thomas Ewan. At the close of the meeting the Chairman presented, on behalf of the members, a handsome afternoon-tea service to Dr. C. E. Fawsitt, the Section's Hon. Secretary for many years. Dr. Fawsitt is leaving Scotland to take up his appointment to the Chair of Chemistry at the Sydney University.

Festivities.

Cambridge Smoking-concert.

THE members of the Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association held a smoking-concert on December 3 at 10 Emmanuel Street, Mr. Bernhard S. Campkin (President) in the chair. The attendance was good, and included some prominent townsmen and a few members of the medical profession as guests. The items on the programme were all exceedingly well rendered and gave the greatest pleasure to the audience. Mr. E. H. Church was responsible for the programme, the contributors being Dr. Graham, Messrs. Gunther, Missen Liddiard, Cundall, Course, Wood, Joseph Reed, and Arthur Helmore, with Mr. Sidney Peters, B.A., at the piano. At the close Mr. H. F. Cook, J.P., moved, and Dr. Campbell seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. E. H. Church, which was carried with acclamation. Mr. Church replied, and the singing of the National Anthem brought a most successful and harmonious meeting to a conclusion.

A Fortieth Anniversary.

THE Hull Chemists' Association held a supper on December 3 at the Grosvenor Hotel to celebrate the attainment of its fortieth anniversary. Mr. C. B. Bell (President), who is the only survivor of the original founders, was in the chair, and he was supported by Councillor Wheatley, Mr. Jesse Chance, Mr. J. F. Robson (Vice-President), Mr. Walter Staning (Secretary), Mr. T. Kenny (Treasurer), Mr. B. M. Stokes, Mr. T. W. Robinson, Mr. H. Tebb, Mr. A. Richardson (ex-President), Mr. H. E. Brown (Hessle), Mr. T. Smith, and Mr. W. S. Adamson (Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co.). After the loyal toasts those of "The Mayor and Corporation" and "The Governor and Incorporation of the Poor" were proposed. Councillor Wheatley, replying, re-

called the fact that his father was formerly a chemist in business in Prospect Street. The toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society" was proposed by Mr. Sayers, and replied to by Mr. Richards. Mr. Adamson proposed "The Hull Chemists' Association," and referring to the Poisons Bill which had that night passed its second reading, he said by that Bill they were to get something distinctly personal in the title of pharmacist. Mr. Bell, in reply, recalled the day forty years since when in the shop in Lowgate of the late Mr. Anthony Smith, Mr. James Burn and Mr. William Staning (father of the present Secretary), and himself met and laid the foundation of that Association. He mentioned also that Mr. Rymer Young (the President of the Pharmaceutical Society) is a native of Hull.

Drug-stores' Association Dine.

A PLEASANT gathering was held at the Albert Hotel, Nottingham, on December 3, when the members of the local branch of the Drug-stores Association held their annual dinner. The President of the branch (Mr. J. P. Pinder) presided, and among those present were Messrs. R. Hunt, T. Barton, and W. Harris (Vice-Chairmen), Oliver Hooley (Treasurer), Claud Manfull (Secretary), F. Selby (Surgical Hosiery Co.), W. Fletcher (J. H. Haywood), B. Walker, A. C. Smith (Newball & Mason), R. C. Wren (Potter & Clarke, Ltd.). Mr. R. Hunt, proposing the toast of "The Ladies and the Visitors," claimed that the Nottingham branch of the D.S.A. had done a great deal of good during the past year. Mr. R. C. Wren, whose name was coupled with the toast, replied, wishing the Association success in its work.

During the evening the Chairman presented Mr. Manfull with a timepiece, together with an address, as a token of appreciation of the way he has performed the duties of Secretary since the formation of the Association. Mr. Manfull suitably acknowledged the gift.

Worcester Dinner.

THERE was a good attendance at the annual dinner of the Worcester Chemists' Association, which was held at the Star Hotel on December 3. Alderman J. A. Steward presided, and he was supported by the Mayor of Worcester (Mr. H. Long), Alderman Gowen Cross (Shrewsbury), Dr. Mabyn Read (city medical officer of health), Messrs. A. W. Southall (Birmingham), F. G. Acton, J. Gray, T. Lunn, T. W. Wall, C. W. Turner, H. J. Aubrey, Holland, Haywood, Swanson, Horniblow, C. A. Steward, F. J. Hall (Worcester), Dr. Dain, Messrs. J. Need, Laughton, Nichol, and W. E. Bayliss (Malvern), Cole and Harris (Droitwich), and A. E. Coverdale (Hon. Secretary). After the loyal toast, the Chairman gave that of "The Pharmaceutical Society," which was replied to by Alderman Cross, a member of the Council of the Society. He explained the present position of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, which was at that time being read a second time in the House of Commons. "The Faithful City" was toasted by Mr. Aubrey, and the Mayor, in reply, mentioned the fact that more than one pharmacist was willing to come forward and give his time as a councillor in the city. Mr. T. Lunn gave "The Medical Profession," to which Dr. Mabyn Read responded. "The Visitors and Kindred Associations" was given by Mr. Gedge, and responded to by Mr. A. W. Southall. The toast of "The Worcester Chemists' Association" was given by Alderman Cross, Mr. A. E. Coverdale responding. After "The Chairman" had been honoured, on the motion of Mr. C. W. Turner, the company sang "Auld Lang Syne," and this terminated a very enjoyable evening. A musical programme was contributed by Mr. E. W. Davies, who gave several bass solos; Mr. E. J. Holland, who gave some humorous sketches; and Mr. Bruce Wyatt, who sang songs.

Whist-drives.

THE Leicester Chemists' Cricket Club held a most successful whist-drive on December 5, at Winn's Oriental Café, members and friends present numbering 155. The first part of the evening was devoted to a musical programme, contributed by Miss Brenda Hewitt, L.R.A.M., Miss Marion Hewitt, Miss Dolly Fry, Miss E. Usher, and Messrs. A. Shipley and C. Dedman. Supper was then served, and after this play began. The winners of the whist prizes

were: Mrs. Dennis, 1st, 116 points, ladies' handbag; Miss Smith, 2nd, hand-mirror, 115 points; Mr. Ireland, 1st, silver cigarette case, 114 points; Mr. Lewis, 2nd, leather brief-bag, 113 points; while Miss Ashford, who had played as gentleman, was awarded a photo-frame for 111 points. Mrs. Brett presented these prizes, and also the prizes won by members of the Cricket Club during the past season, which were as follows: Batting, Mr. W. Smith, a bat; bowling, Mr. T. C. Peberdy, a mounted ball; fielding, Mr. H. Chawner. The Cricket Club had a fairly successful season.

THE members of the York Chemists' Association and their friends had a successful whist-drive and musical evening in the De Grey Rooms on December 2. Fifty-seven tables were occupied, and the success attending the drive reflected the greatest credit on the committee, constituted as follows: Messrs. F. A. Newey (President of the Association), J. A. Lupton, M. F. Burgin, W. Dewhurst, W. P. Saville, T. E. Batty, G. E. Walker, W. Sawray, and G. E. Woodhouse, with Mr. T. C. Atkinson as Hon. Secretary. Mr. A. Humphreys proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had so ably provided the music and so helped the committee to make the entertainment such a success. The successful competitors were: Ladies—1, Mrs. H. Eglin, 181; 2, Miss E. Chapman, 180; 3, Miss M. Saxby, 177; consolation, Mrs. J. Allen Clarke. Gentlemen—1, Mr. J. Pilmoor, 186; 2, Mr. W. J. Parker, 180; 3, Mr. Stanciliffe, 179; consolation, Mr. J. Allen Clarke. Among those present in addition to those named were Messrs. A. Humphreys and F. W. Wilson (Bleasdale, Ltd.), Davies (Brand & Co.), and Hyde (Raimes & Co.).

THE members and friends of the North Staffordshire Chemists' Association held a whist-drive on December 3, at the Grand Hotel, Hanley. Over thirty ladies and gentlemen were present. Mr. T. C. Cornwell, in the absence of Mr. Jones (through a bereavement), occupied the chair. During the evening a telegram was received announcing the second reading of the Pharmacy Bill in the House of Commons, a matter which formed the subject of a demonstration of enthusiasm by all present. The prize-winners in the whist-drive were: Ladies—1st, a silver-backed comb in case, Mrs. Bentley, wife of Mr. T. Bentley, Hon. Sec. of the Association; 2nd, a large box of perfumes, Miss Beatrice Hall, daughter of Mr. R. J. Hall, L.D.S., of Hanley. Gentlemen—1st, a silver-mounted cigar case, Mr. F. C. Barrell, chemist, of Hanley; 2nd, a case of perfume, Mr. A. T. Robson, of Hanley. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the wholesale houses which had given the prizes, and to Mr. Bentley and Mr. Cornwell, who were responsible for the successful arrangements in connection with the drive.

Bradford Dinner.

THE eleventh annual dinner of the Bradford Chemists' Association was held on December 8 at the Great Northern Victoria Hotel, and was a very successful function. The chair was occupied by the President (Mr. D. S. Priestley), and amongst those present were Mr. J. Rymer Young (President of the Pharmaceutical Society), Mr. T. Pratt (President of the Bradford Chamber of Trades), Professor Gardner (Principal of the Bradford Technical College), Mr. F. Pilkington Sargeant, F.C.S. (President of the West Riding Federation of Chemists' Associations), Mr. H. R. Jackson (ex-President of the Bradford Association), Mr. R. Broadhead (Secretary of the West Riding Federation), and Mr. A. Hanson (ex-President of the West Riding Federation). The loyal toasts having been honoured, Mr. M. Firth proposed the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," to which the President of the Pharmaceutical Society responded. He said that in appointing Mr. Glyn-Jones to the position of Parliamentary Secretary the Council had not added a tail that was going to wag the dog, or a servant who was going to be their master. From first to last, in every particular, Mr. Glyn-Jones had never taken a single step in reference to pharmaceutical matters upon which he (Mr. Rymer Young) had not been consulted, and when he said that he had been consulted they must take him to represent the Pharmaceutical Council. It was quite unfair and inaccurate to say that Mr. Glyn-Jones had been given,

as it were, a roving commission, because it was not so, and he made that explanation in justification of Mr. Glyn-Jones and of himself. He would also like to remove a misapprehension which seemed to exist in the minds of some people in regard to his own personal business. An idea seemed to have got abroad that he was a sort of West End pharmacist—an Allen & Hanbury or a John Bell & Co.—and that, therefore, he was indifferent to the fate of the average chemist. He appealed to those present who knew him to say whether that was or was not correct. He was in deed and in truth an average ordinary middle-class chemist, exactly like the majority of those present that evening. They heard stories as to his willingness "to give away the show"—as it had been put—but was it likely that he would be prepared to commit what might be regarded as pharmaceutical suicide? Certainly not. Mr. Young then touched upon his visits to Huddersfield and Harrogate last year, and observed that he had a very vivid recollection of that time. The great difficulty was to keep an equilibrium between the subject of to-day and those of a year or two ago in view of the constantly changing views which came about every time the kaleidoscope was moved; he found a difficulty in always reconciling his views of to-day with those of a year or two ago. He candidly confessed that, and would only urge in extenuation that the position constantly changed.

THE KALEIDOSCOPE HAD MOVED,

and the bits of glass had been re-arranged, thereby giving a different view of the matter. Furthermore, they had to accommodate themselves to the necessities of the time and the exigencies of the moment. There were times when one had to put one's convictions in one's pocket and go for that which was possible and practicable. On the occasion of his visit to Huddersfield he clearly maintained the necessity of holding to the standard of qualification and the individual title, and he had never receded from that position. It might be that he had had to give way here and there from what he laid down in the little Bill which he introduced to their notice a year ago—a Bill which he regarded then as an ideal Bill, and which he would pass to-day if it were possible to do so. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Rymer Young reviewed the position of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, and in regard to the title question gave the interesting information that a few years ago, when a firm of grocers usurped the title of pharmaceutical chemist, the Pharmaceutical Society, most anxious to fight, could not find a leading counsel who had a reputation to lose who would advise them to take the matter up. The Pharmaceutical Society received the answer that the conditions made it possible for companies to use the title of chemist and druggist, and that these equally held good to the title pharmacist and pharmaceutical chemist or any other. That which was not illegal was legal. It was no use dividing on a sentimental question and asking whether the question of right came in. This title was effectually protected in the Bill, and moreover the power would be given to the Society in the case of companies under the new Bill to prosecute a man from whom they could get a penalty, and whose inproprieties could be shown to the world. At the same time they would not for one moment lose the right to prosecute the unqualified man who had sold scheduled poisons. He predicted that the effect of passing the Bill would be that within twelve months the value of the qualified assistant would go up by 10 per cent. Since an enormous demand would be created for qualified assistants more gentlemen would be able to see that qualified men were wanted, and their friend Mr. F. Pilkington Sargeant would have to enlarge his premises. (Laughter.)

Other toasts followed.

CAMPOR-CULTIVATION is extending in the New Galway district of Ceylon; another large clearing is to be planted this season.

The "Melbourne Argus" Tables of the Australasian mails for 1909 has just been published. It is in the form of a small book suitable for the pocket consisting of forty pages containing complete official British and foreign mail services to and from the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand, rates of passage, postage and cable charges, with an Orient-Royal Mail Line coloured track chart of the world showing distances from port to port, and differences in time, calendar, etc. Copies may be obtained gratis at the London offices, 80 Fleet Street, if a stamp is enclosed to cover postage.

New Companies and Company News.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907.

MENDOZA OIL SYNDICATE, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 100L., in 1L. shares. Objects as indicated by the title. The first subscribers are H. T. Holmes, 166 Wilnot Street, N.E., cashier; and W. Wood, Nelson Street, Whitstable, Kent, clerk. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Registered office, Balfour House, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.

KEASBERG & MATTISON CO. (incorporated outside the U.K.).—Capital \$2,000,000, in shares of \$100. Registered in Pennsylvania, U.S.A., on October 14, 1892, to manufacture and deal in pharmaceutical, chemical, and technical preparations and compounds. British address, 218 Caxton House, Westminster, where W. G. Tyler is authorised to accept service.

SWANSEA OXALIC ACID WORKS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 15,000L., in 1L. shares. Objects: To acquire certain leasehold land and premises in Glamorgan, and to carry on the business indicated by the title. The first directors are J. L. Richardson, Captain E. E. Richardson, J.P., W. W. Holmes, and F. E. Finlayson. Qualification, 200L. Registered office, 2 Gloucester Place, Swansea.

WINTHROP MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,200L., in 1L. shares. To adopt an agreement with Winthrop B. Morse for the acquisition of the business carried on as the "Winthrop Manufacturing Co.," and to carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in dental, medicinal, chemical, and other materials, appliances, and preparations, etc. The first subscribers are Winthrop B. Morse, 6 Hills Place, W., commercial representative of the Consolidated Dental Manufacturing Co., New York; and F. B. Sargeant, 43 Norfolk Avenue, Southend, cashier. The first directors are Winthrop B. Morse and E. W. Lucas. Registered office, 6 Hills Place, Oxford Street, W.

RADUA MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.—Capital 40,000L., in 1L. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in metal polishes, chemical preparations, and proprietary articles, chemists, druggists, etc. The subscribers are S. Elliott, 428 Strand, W.C.; P. Schaefer and A. Krumm, 10-14 Leeds Place, Tollington Park; J. T. Goddard, 5-6 Clement's Inn, W.C.; F. L. Ball, 37 Curstitor Street, E.C.; A. W. Carpenter, 28 Bedford Street, W.C.; A. W. Wise, 5 Victoria Villas, Brookwood, Surrey. The first directors are S. Elliott (chairman), G. A. F. Krumm and P. Schaefer (joint managing directors), and A. W. Wise. Qualification 10L. Registered office, 10-14 Leeds Place, Tollington Park, N.

PETOL (1908), LTD.—Capital 5,250L., in 5,000 ordinary shares of 1L. each and 5,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by Petol, Ltd., and to carry on the business of peat by-products and patent medicines, oil extractors, refiners, and manufacturers, manufacturers of soap, disinfectants, manures, and sheep-dips, etc. The subscribers are G. H. A. Elin, 12 The Grove, Boltons, S.W.; B. Boothby, Little Gables, Peppard, Oxon; P. A. Schloesser, 11 Cophall Court, E.C.; C. E. Haines, Hare Hatch, Twyford, Berks; H. Joseph, 3 Buckingham Gate, S.W.; P. Lawrence and C. W. M. Price, 17 Hart Street, W.C. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Registered by C. W. M. Price, 17 Hart Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.

AFRICAN SALTPETRE CO., LTD.—The accounts for the year ended September 30, to be submitted to the meeting to be held in London on December 16, show a debit balance of profit-and-loss account of 24,311L., as against 24,029L. for the previous year.

PAINE & CO., LTD.—The report for the year ended May 31 last states that, after making adequate provision for depreciation, writing off bad and doubtful debts, and appropriating 415L. of last year's carry-forward for bonuses paid to the company's employés, the balance at the disposal of the directors is 6,272L., which they propose to apply as follows: In payment of mortgage interest, 1,034L.; debenture interest, 795L.; preference dividends, 1,024L.; 10 per cent. on ordinary shares (less tax), 2,375L.; directors' remuneration, 600L.; debenture redemption fund, 120L.; and carry forward, 324L. Each manufacturing branch shows an increase, particularly the proprietary malt products, profits on which are maintained, notwithstanding increased cost of grain. A series of malt and milk foods and diet have, after considerable experiment and expenditure, been perfected, and a separate syndicate is in the course of formation to advertise and market them as proprietary articles. The company will retain the sole right to manufacture, and benefit by its co-operation.

TAYLORS' DRUG CO., LTD.—The report for the year ended September 30, 1908, to be presented at the meeting in Leeds

on December 17, states that the net profit for the year, after providing for all usual trade charges and interests, is 6,806L., which, with the balance brought forward from last year's accounts of 630L., make together 7,436L. Out of this has been paid the dividend for the year on the preference share capital and the interim dividend on the ordinary shares at 5 per cent., leaving a balance of profit of 3,644L. Of this there has to be carried to reserve, in accordance with the terms of the trust deed for the debenture-holders, 1,701L., leaving 1,943L. The directors propose to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, on the ordinary share capital, making 10 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward 443L.

LENNON, LTD.—The report of the directors for the financial year ended June 30, 1908, states that the directors have pleasure in being able to announce that the result of the year's working has been much more satisfactory than that of the previous year, arising principally from the rigid economy that has been exercised in all departments, as, unfortunately, the great depression in trade in South Africa still continues. After deduction of trade expenses, depreciation, directors' fees, etc., there is a net profit on the year's transactions of 19,005L. 17s. 1d., which, when added to the balance brought forward from last year, gives the sum of 20,323L. 10s. 9d. available for distribution. This sum the directors recommend should be distributed as follows: 5 per cent. dividend on cumulative preference shares, already paid, 8,750L.; 4 per cent. dividend on ordinary shares, 9,434L.; balance to next year and for income-tax, 2,139L. 10s. 9d. The results that have been obtained are to a large extent due to the loyalty of the members of the staff, who, in view of the heavy depression in trade all over South Africa, have willingly undertaken extra duties, in many cases with reduction in salary, in order to assist in carrying out the policy of economy, and the directors think the best thanks of the shareholders are due to them. As the Income Tax Act still remains in force, the directors recommend that they be authorised to pay the dividends on the preference shares for the current year free of income tax. The annual meeting was held on November 12 at the head offices, Cape Town, when the above report, balance-sheet, etc., were unanimously adopted. The Chairman (Mr. A. Walsh) announced that only three nominations for directors had been received, and as there were only three vacancies he declared Messrs. J. H. Carter, R. Q. Leeds, and W. J. Bickle duly elected.

IDRIS & CO., LTD.—The annual report of the directors for the year ended October 31, 1908, states that the result of the year's trading, although showing an improvement over 1907, is disappointing. The weather during the past summer has been favourable and quite equal to an average season, but owing to the depressed state of trade generally and keen competition, the company's sales, although showing an increase, have been adversely affected. The number of customers is larger than at any previous period, but the expansion of sales which would have naturally resulted from this increase has not been fully realised, as so many of the company's customers have shown a serious falling-off in the total takings of their own businesses. The company's productions are becoming more widely known each year, and many accounts of an important character have been opened during the past year. The Idris patent chinaways syphon is now proving a great success, and as this is the only syphon in which the contents do not come into contact with metal, it is expected a considerable increased trade will be secured by the adoption of this syphon. The company has also the monopoly in London of the Nash patent cork, which combines all the advantages of a cork with the ease of opening, which is the attraction of the screw-stopper. Where introduced the Nash cork has been much appreciated, and the directors anticipate that it will be largely adopted in the future. The company exhibited at the recent Franco-British Exhibition, and the jury awarded a gold medal for the purity and excellence of the Idris table-waters. The directors have given during the past year most earnest consideration to the question of reducing expenses and extending business, and the result of their efforts shows an increased profit for the year just closed. They have under consideration further schemes which they are confidently hoping may show a further improvement during the current year. The directors appeal to the shareholders to use their influence in supporting them in their efforts by assisting in extending the company's business. Any suggestions to this end will be welcomed and carefully considered. The profit for the year is 8,755L. 14s. 10d., which, after deducting debenture interest 4,000L., leaves 4,755L. 14s. 10d. To this amount is added the balance brought forward from the previous year, 852L. 18s. 7d., making a total of 5,608L. 13s. 5d. to the credit of profit-and-loss account. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 3 per cent. on the "A" preference shares, which absorbs 3,300L.; they also recommend that there be carried to syphon reserve account 1,000L., and to investment reserve account 500L., leaving a balance of 808L. 13s. 5d. to be carried forward.